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## **Love God | Love People**

**Christ Simplifies the Law by stating we are to Love God & Love People.**

*“Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” **Matthew 22:37-40***

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” **Mark 12:30-31***

### **What does it mean to Love God? How can I do that?**

#### **John 15:1-17**

*“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes (Cleans) so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.” **John 15:1-3***

- **How often do we get caught up with the idea that we are responsible to prune and clean and do all the landscaping in our lives, all by ourselves?**
- **How many times have you tried to fix yourself?**

*“Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.” **John 15:4***

*“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes (Cleans) so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.” **John 15:1-4***

### **So, how can we bear fruit?**

*“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, **you will bear much fruit**; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” **John 15:5-8***

**What happens when we remain or fail to remain in Christ?**

***“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.” John 15:9***

**How much do you think the Father loves His one and only son?**

**What takes priority in your life? What takes the majority of your life?**

**What things consume your Time & Attention?**

*“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. **If you keep my commands**, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.” **John 15:9-11***

**What is it that causes us to struggle with being obedient?**

- **What does it mean to keep his commands?**
- **What is it that Christ is wanting us to obey?**

***“My command is this: Love each other** as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, **for everything** that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. **This is my command: Love each other.**” **John 15:12-17***

**Why is Remaining Important?**

**When we remain:**

- **God shapes, cleans & prunes us**
- **We bear fruit**
- **We have everything we could ever need or ask for**
- **We will Love People**

**When we do not remain:**

- **We do not have a gardener or help**
- **We cannot bear fruit**
- **We may wither and be tossed in the fire**
- **We will not love others the way God wants us to**