

What Should Be Your Number One Aim in Life?

Part 13 2019



The aim that would help you achieve a better life, that would help you produce a better world within your circle of influence

and that

would make you much more valuable in serving God's purpose.

Your greatest aim in life...

“To love God, to fear Him, to keep His commandments, to hate
evil” and to do good.

Greatest Aim in Life – Scriptural Support

- *“To love God...” – 1 Cor 14:1 TLB Let love be your greatest aim;*
- *“To fear Him...” – Prov 9:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,...*
- *“To keep His commandments...” – John 14:15 If you love Me, keep My commandments.*
- *“To hate evil...” – Ps 97:10 You who love the Lord, hate evil!*
- *“To do good...” – Ex 33:19 Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you,..."*

Your greatest aim in life....

“To love God, to fear Him, to keep His commandments, to hate
evil” and to do good.

Why?

“That Others May Live”!!!

Our Desire Needs To Be To Grow

From “What’s in it for me” to “What’s in it for God”.

Whenever we ask something from God, always add the following to your prayer requests:

“So that I can be of greater value to you in carrying out Your plan of salvation”.

Remember: “It’s not about you” – “It’s about God and His plan”!!!

Today's Message – Part 13

How To Love Difficult People

God will test your love

- *Remember that love is an “action” not a “feeling”. You may not feel love towards someone who has wronged you; nevertheless, we are to be willing to do good even to those who wrong us.*
- *It’s easy to love loving people, but to learn true love, God has to bring into your life some difficult-unlovely people....and there are lots of them....they’re all over.*
- *To learn patience, God will put you in situations where you can practice patience; to learn anger-management, God will put you in situations where you can practice controlling your anger....it’s the same with learning how to love the unlovely.*

God tests you by putting “VDP” people in your life

- *What are “VDP” people? They are “Very Draining People”....they can drain you of all of your energy....so you can't be around them too much....you have to take a break from them and be around people who will uplift and re-energize you, but God tells us that we must also learn to love “VDP” people.*
- *So this message is to help us learn how to love them too.*
- *Again, remember: we are to learn to love both the lovely and the unlovely so “That Others Can Live”....our job is to draw others to God and to His Word (Torah)....”Truth with Love”.*

Four kinds of “VDP” people

1. Difficult people - They are rude and obnoxious; you can't please them; they're cranky; ...it's very hard to love these kind of people.
2. Demanding people - They're aggressive; pushy; they always want it their way; they're stubborn, they think they are always right; it's my way or the highway type of people.
3. Disappointing people - They let you down; break promises; break vows; are disloyal; unfaithful; they let you down.
4. Destructive people - They mean to harm you; they are hateful; they want to do you bad.

You can find these type of people everywhere – school, work, home, restaurants, stores, on the freeway, and even amongst fighting parents at little league baseball games (umpires are quitting because of abuse from upset parents) ... they're all over.

How do you respond in love to these “VDP”?

1 Cor 13/5 gives us a few tips on how to handle with love these type of “VDP” people.

1 Cor 13:4-5

- 1 Cor 13:4-5 Love...5 does not behave rudely (NLT 1) not rude), does not seek its own (NLT 2) does not demand its own way), is not provoked (NLT 3) not irritable), thinks no evil (NLT 4) keeps no record of when it has been wronged);...
- Let's use these verses to help us respond in love to these four types of "VDP".
 - "not rude"
 - "does not demand its own way"
 - "not irritable"
 - "keeps no record of when it has been wronged"

1) Difficult people

*They are rude and obnoxious; you can't please them;
they're cranky.*

1. *Difficult people...how to respond to them*

- *LOVE IS NOT RUDE, So...* *I must be tactful, not just truthful.*
 - *Love is tactful*; *in other words, you don't return their rudeness with more rudeness...when they are difficult, you don't be difficult back.*
 - *One of the ways that you can be tactful* *is simply by actively listening to them first instead of interrupting and arguing back.*
 - *Prov 18:13* NIV *He who answers before listening — that is his folly and his shame* (*Complete Jewish Bible* “*stupid and embarrassing*”; *Message* “*stupid and rude*”).
 - *It is rude to interrupt and not let others finish their sentence.*

1. *Difficult people...how to respond to them*

- *LOVE IS NOT RUDE, So...* *I must be tactful, not just truthful.*

- *“Seek first to understand and then to be understood”.*
- *Talking stick analogy.* *Person who has the stick does all the talking and the one without the stick listens intently seeking to sincerely understand the person doing the talking; then the other person takes the stick and does the talking while the person without the stick does all the active listening while sincerely seeking to understand the person doing the talking.*
- *Love listens...tact is listening without interrupting.*

1. Difficult people...how to respond to them

- LOVE IS NOT RUDE, So... I must be tactful, not just truthful.
- Don't yell at one another; yelling just produces more yelling and escalates to louder yelling. If a difficult person is yelling at you, your response is almost a "whisper"....a low volume-calm voice.
- Eph 4:31-32 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.
- In other words, stop your yelling....listen...seek to understand.

1. Difficult people...how to respond to them

- LOVE IS NOT RUDE, So... I must be tactful, not just truthful.
- Active listening means not only hearing... it means not only listening to the words being spoken but also the feelings/emotions behind those words...also means paying attention to the persons body language...it takes lots of energy and focus to be a good/loving listener.
- It does not come automatic; you have to work at it.

1. Difficult people...how to respond to them

- LOVE IS NOT RUDE, So... I must be tactful, not just truthful.

- Also don't be "rude" in the way you respond or talk to the person who is being difficult.
- Prov 16:21 The wise in heart will be called prudent, And sweetness of the lips increases learning.
- Prov 16:21 Today's English Version A wise, mature person is known for his understanding. The more pleasant his words, the more persuasive he is.
- The way you say something determines the way it's received.

1. Difficult people...how to respond to them

- LOVE IS NOT RUDE, So... I must be tactful, not just truthful.

- Using abrasive-nagging sounding-offensive words towards anyone just adds gasoline to the fire and adds to your rudeness.
- Be careful with your tone/volume/inflection of your voice and remember that you are also communicating with your body language.
- Remember... love is not rude...you actively listen, you sincerely seek to understand, and be careful with your words and how you say them. When someone's rude to you, you don't retaliate with more rudeness.

2) Demanding people

They're aggressive; pushy; they always want it their way; they're stubborn, they think they are always right; it's my way or the highway type of people; they demand their rights.

2. Demanding people... how to respond to them

- LOVE DOES NOT DEMAND ITS OWN WAY, So....I must be understanding, not demanding.
 - Phil 2:5-7 TLB Your attitude should be the kind that was shown us by Jesus Christ, 6 who, though he was God, did not demand and cling to his rights as God, 7 but laid aside his mighty power and glory, taking the disguise of a slave and becoming like men.
 - Practice being understanding and not demanding yourself when dealing with demanding people.

2. Demanding people... how to respond to them

- LOVE DOES NOT DEMAND ITS OWN WAY, So....I must be understanding, not demanding.
- Titus 3:2 God's Word Believers shouldn't curse anyone or be quarrelsome, but they should be gentle and show courtesy to everyone.
- What is courtesy? – just be kind to people, even in the little things; show love in little things; do thoughtful things; opening the door for someone; it's being patient with people; it's the “let-me-get-that-for-you” instead of “get it yourself” or “get that for me”.

2. Demanding people... how to respond to them

- LOVE DOES NOT DEMAND ITS OWN WAY, So....I must be understanding, not demanding.
- Everybody has a story (even demanding people).
- Get to know what their story is; their background, their life battles, their burdens.
- Before being sharp with demanding people, ask yourself: Do I know their background, do I know the battles they are going through right now, do I know the burdens they are carrying?

2. Demanding people... how to respond to them

- LOVE DOES NOT DEMAND ITS OWN WAY, So....I must be understanding, not demanding.
- Luke 6:31 And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.
- You want others to know the battles you are presently facing and the burdens you are presently carrying so that others can be more understanding of your actions....others want the same.
- You'll be more loving towards demanding people if you know their story... there are all kinds of battles and burdens that people carry that we don't know about.

2. Demanding people... how to respond to them

- LOVE DOES NOT DEMAND ITS OWN WAY, So....I must be understanding, not demanding.
- Does that mean you're just supposed to let others run all over you; let others push you around and treat you like a doormat; let others manipulate?
- NO! But be tender and gentle in your responses....you can be gentle and firm at the same time.
- Jesus the Messiah never caved in to the manipulation of the Pharisees, but He was gentle in His firmness.

3) Disappointing people

They let you down; break promises; break vows; are disloyal; unfaithful; they let you down.

3) Disappointing people...how to respond to them

- LOVE IS NOT IRRITABLE, So... I must be gentle not judgmental.
 - Gal 6:1 NIV Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.
 - How do you confront someone who is doing something they shouldn't be doing...you've got to do it gently, not harshly, not in a rude or mean way...but with gentleness and respect.
 - Being "Right" but Being "Rude" = WRONG

3) Disappointing people...how to respond to them

- *LOVE IS NOT IRRITABLE, So...I must be gentle not judgmental.*
- *No matter how right you are, the person that needs to correct his behavior is just going to get angry and not change...they will only get defensive and dig in their heels.*
- *Rom 14:12-13 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. 13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way (don't add to the person's irritable behavior... be gentle)*
- *Use your "judgment" but don't be "judgmental".*

4) Destructive people

They mean to harm you; they are hateful; they want to do you bad.

4) Destructive people...how to respond to them

- LOVE KEEPS NO RECORD OF WRONGS, So... I must not repeat it but delete it.
- Typically when we get hurt, we repeat it in three ways: 1) We repeat it emotionally in our minds; 2) We repeat it relationally as a weapon; 3) We repeat it verbally by telling other people.
 1. We repeat it in our mind over and over again; continue to rehearse it in our mind; resentment builds up...it's all self-destructive...you're only hurting yourself (physically, mentally, and emotionally – emotionally induced illness can occur)...it keeps the wound fresh and it never heals.
 2. We get "historical"...we use it as a weapon against the person.
 3. Instead of talking to God about it, we talk to others (that's gossip).

4) Destructive people...how to respond to them

● LOVE KEEPS NO RECORD OF WRONGS, So....I must not repeat it but delete it.

- All three of these are destructive, damaging, and bad for your health.
- The answer is, “Don't repeat it but delete it”....let it go if you can't resolve it with the destructive person involved.
- Mark 11:25 AMP And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him and let it drop (leave it, let it go), in order that your Father Who is in heaven may also forgive you your [own] failings and shortcomings and let them drop.
- Unloving people keep records of wrongs and gossip about them.

Summary

- Difficult people:
 - *LOVE IS NOT RUDE, So...I must be tactful not truthful*
- Demanding people:
 - *LOVE DOES NOT DEMAND ITS OWN WAY, So....I must be understanding not demanding*
- Disappointing people:
 - *LOVE IS NOT IRRITABLE, So...I must be gentle not judgmental.*
- Destructive people:
 - *LOVE KEEPS NO RECORD OF WRONGS, So....I must not repeat it but delete it.*

Your greatest aim in life...

“To love God, to fear Him, to keep His commandments, to hate
evil” and to do good.

Greatest aim in life....

*To love God, fear Him, keep His commandments, hate
evil, and do good*

“Truth with Love”

“Right Doctrine – Right Behavior”

“So that others may live”!