

# *What Should Be Your Number One Aim in Life?*

*Part 5 2019*



## *God's Answer*

● 1 Cor 14:1 TLB

*Let love be your greatest aim; . . . .*

*This should be our dominant life value on which we  
base all of our decisions.*

## *God's Expanded Answer*

- *“Let love be your greatest aim.....”(1 Cor 14:1)*
- *1 John 4:8 .... for God is love.*
  - *Let Loving God be your greatest aim....*
- *John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.*
  - *Let Loving God and Keeping His Commandments be your greatest aim in life....*
- *All your decisions and actions are to be filtered through this dominant life principle: Let Loving God and Keeping His Commandments be your greatest aim in life....*

## *God's Expanded Answer*

- *1 Cor 14:1*

*Let love be your greatest aim;....*

- *Expanded Answer*

*Let Loving God and Keeping His Commandments be  
your greatest aim in life.....*

*This Part 5*

*Is to Conclude Some Basic things that God says about  
love!!!*

## The Basics of Love

### 1. We love because God loves us.

- 1 John 4:7-8 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.
- God gave us a piece of His love-character when He created us, so we are capable of learning to love others, even learn to love our enemies. It takes practice, but we are capable of this type of love.
- Our pursuit of love is NOT a pursuit of love from God but a pursuit of love for God and for others...not a pursuit of blessings/rewards but a pursuit of having a closer-deeper relationship with God/others.

## 2. Love is a choice and a commitment

- Deut 30:19-20 NLT "Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live!  
20 You can make this choice by loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him.
- You can choose to love God or you can choose not to love God.
- You can choose to be committed or not to be committed to loving God. Once you make the commitment, a person of integrity follows through with that commitment

## 2. Love is a choice and a commitment

- Loving God/others is controllable...it is totally under your control....it's your choice to love or not to love.
- God will not force you to love Him/others....Why?...it's a choice...you are a free moral agent...you can choose to Love God or choose NOT to love Him....but God says that He gave you the capability to love when He created you...He gave us a piece of His loving-nature when He created you.
- You can't force others to love you or to stay in love with you...even though they have the capability to love you, it's their choice.



### 3. *Love is an action not just emotion*

- *1 John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed (NIV = action) and in truth.*
- *Love is something you do...it is a behavior...it is much more than an emotion or a feeling.*
- *You cannot command an emotion...to be sad or happy...but you can command an action/behavior. The action to love or not to love is totally under your control. You may not feel the emotion to love, but because it is a controllable behavior, you can choose the loving behavior over an unloving behavior.*

### 3. *Love is an action not just emotion*

- *Because love is a behavior, God can command you to love even the unlovely. . . . to love those that don't deserve your love. . . . even to love your enemies. . . . even though you may not feel love towards them.*
- *You may feel like responding in kind when someone treats you in an unloving way (yells at you. . . disrespects you), but you can choose to respond with kindness and love. . . Why? . . . because it's an action and a choice. . . God commands a behavior that is totally under your control and will power.*

### *3. Love is an action not just emotion*

- *Rev 2:1-6 "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write,....2 "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; 3 and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.*

### 3. *Love is an action not just emotion*

- *4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place — unless you repent.*
- *This church lost its first love because it stopped doing the loving behaviors it once did when they were in their first love with God...in any relationship, love can be restored by once again doing those loving actions when the relationship was just starting. This church lost its first love because it stopped doing the things that created the love feelings in the early days.*

## 4. Love is a skill

- 1 John 4:7-8 TLB Dear friends, let us practice loving each other, for love comes from God and those who are loving and kind show that they are the children of God, and that they are getting to know him better. 8 But if a person isn't loving and kind, it shows (the world is watching...example, you pray at a restaurant but you display obnoxious behavior...poor tipper...complain, complain, complain) that he doesn't know God-for God is love.
- A skill can be learned with practice... God gives us plenty of opportunities to practice...you can get better at treating others with loving behaviors, but it takes practice.



## 5. Love is a habit

- Heb 13:1-3 TLB Continue to love each other (practice it over and over again until it becomes a habit) with true brotherly love. 2 Don't forget to be kind to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it! 3 Don't forget about those in jail. Suffer with them as though you were there yourself. Share the sorrow of those being mistreated, for you know what they are going through.
- Not everyone wants to hear about your faith (Sabbath, Holy Days, etc), but there are plenty of troubled people in this world who would be more willing to listen if you show first that you care.

## 5. Love is a habit

- Make it a habit to love even the unlovely.

- Luke 6:32-36 "But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. 35 But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. 36 Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

## 5. Love is a habit

- You say that you love God and know God...then we are to show it by loving even our enemies...by loving those who don't love us...who irritate us...anybody can love people who love them...but the epitome of love is loving our enemies...this needs practice and needs to become a habit.
- Is there a person that you think, "There is no way I can love that person"....that's the one to practice on.



## *Basics of Love (Summary”*

- 1. We love because God loves us.*
- 2. Love is a choice and a commitment.*
- 3. Love is an action not just emotion*
- 4. Love is a skill.*
- 5. Love is a habit.*

## *Why Is This Love Series Critical for Us as a Congregation?*

- *We have a naturally “knowledge-based” approach to sharing our faith....Sabbath, Holy Days, Clean Foods make us distinctive from other faiths...we can't share our faith without Biblical knowledge and understanding.*
- *But knowledge in and of itself without love can be very divisive and destructive....doctrinal arguments are common when the focus is on knowledge alone....calendar issues, how to properly pronounce God's name, etc.*

## *Why Is This Love Series Critical for Us as a Congregation?*

- *But God tells us that there is another approach that takes priority over this knowledge-based approach and that makes the knowledge-based approach even more effective.*
- *This knowledge-based approach is a must, but it is not to take priority... there is another approach that must come first.*
- *People don't care what you know until they know that you care.*

## *It's a Love-Based Approach (How will God Judge Us?)*

- *Matt 25:31-46* *"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. 33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

*It's a Love-Based Approach  
(How will God Judge Us?)*

- *35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' 37 'Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'*

## *It's a Love-Based Approach (How will God Judge Us?)*

- *40 And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' 41 'Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: 42 for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; 43 I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'*



## *It's a Love-Based Approach (How will God Judge Us?)*

- 44 *"Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' 45 Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' 46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."*
- John 13:35 *By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

*A “knowledge-based” approach is critical to drawing people into a deeper relationship with God...Biblical Truth is a must!*

*BUT*

*“Love-Based” Approach must take priority.*



## *Vision/Mission/Value Statements of the COGSA*

- Mission: “To make disciples who make disciples...and in the process, help change lives through the Power of God’s Applied Word to heal a broken-hurting world”.
- Vision: “To prepare a people for servant-leadership with Christ in Tomorrow’s New World”.
- Values: “To represent the government of God on earth in all areas of life by demonstrating the following behaviors:
  - Love God – Vertical Relationship (Worship & Discipleship)
  - Love One Another – Horizontal Relationship (Fellowship/Ministry)
  - Love the World – Outward Relationship (Evangelism)