

What Should Be Your Number One Aim in Life?

Part 6 2019



God Answers the Question

- *Let loving God and keeping His Commandments be your greatest aim in life.*
 - *1 Cor 14:1 TLB Let love be your greatest aim;*
 - *1 John 4:8-9 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*
 - *John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments."*
- *This goal in life becomes our dominant life principle around which we base all of our decisions as we journey this Christian life.*

Basics of Love

(Review)

- 1. We love because God loves us. (We are capable of loving God and others because we were given a piece of His loving-nature when He created us.)*
- 2. Love is a choice and a commitment. (The choice to love or not to love is totally under our control... starts with a commitment.)*
- 3. Love is an action not just emotion. (We are capable of displaying loving behaviors in spite of how we feel.)*
- 4. Love is a skill. (It can be learned with practice.)*
- 5. Love is a habit. (Practice it over and over until it becomes habit.)*

Other Basics of Love (Review)

- 1. God needs us to carry out His Plan of Salvation... we were created to fulfill His agenda, not our agenda. Without our participation, vital elements of His plan will go undone.*
- 2. Not the pursuit of love BUT the pursuit of loving.*
 - We live to serve Him NOT for Him to serve us.*
 - Our obedience is focused on the Law-Giver NOT on the rewards and blessings that come from keeping the Law. Our focus is on a relationship with God NOT a relationship with the rewards.*

“Love-Based” vs “Knowledge-Based”

- *Our “knowledge-based” approach to sharing our faith can cause division/arguments if it is not lead by a “love-based” approach.*
- *Our Unity statement: “Unity on the essentials, liberty on the non-essentials, but in all things, love.”*
 - *We will remain focused on our core doctrinal beliefs that unite us and stay clear of arguing over non-essential disputable matters that tend to divide us.*
 - *Our knowledge-based approach is essential to sharing our faith with those who seek a greater understanding of God’s Word, but leading with a love-based approach reduces the division issue.*

Part 6

Two Big Reasons for Giving Love Priority in Your Life

1. Love proves that I belong to the family of God.

- *It proves that when you were baptized, you truly became a part of God's family and not merely dunked and got wet. You were truly born-again....no longer just a member of the human family but a member of the God family.*
- *Passport proves you are a citizen of the United States....you won't be let in back into the U.S. by merely saying you are a citizen...you must present proof. Same with ATM...you have to have a PIN code to prove you are who you say you are.*
- *God will look at your lifestyle to determine whether you lived a life of Loving God & Loving Others....your actions not words.*

1. *Love proves that I belong to the family of God.*

- *1 John 4:7-11let us love one another (remember that love is an action), for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God (love-actions proves we have been born into the family of God). 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world (God proved His love towards us by sending His son), that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*

1. *Love proves that I belong to the family of God.*

- *1 John 4:20-21 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? 21 And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.*
- *Knowledge in and of itself does not prove that you are who you say you are....does not prove that you are a member of God's family.*
- *Knowledge must be expressed through application of this knowledge...application is obedience to His commandments.*

1. *Love proves that I belong to the family of God.*

- *1 Cor 13/1-13 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing (the motive for doing all these good things are for self...for the rewards instead of the relationship with God).*

1. *Love proves that I belong to the family of God.*

- *4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.*

1. Love proves that I belong to the family of God.

- *11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. 13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*
- *God is love and our number one aim in life is: Loving God and Keeping His commandments.*
- *Love proves we are sons/daughters in God's family.*

2. Love Covers My Many Sins

- 1 Peter 4:8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."
- We all know that we are imperfect... that we sin... makes mistakes... transgress God's Law... that wages of sin is death... we all know that we blow it at times.
- When we are judged by God, He will not ask, "Were you perfect?" ...it's a given that we are not perfect. He will ask, "Did you love Me and others?" ...Love is what will cover your sins... the love of our Messiah and our love towards others.

2. Love Covers My Many Sins

- King David blew it many times. . . .very imperfect. . . .He lied, cheated, committed adultery, murdered to cover up his adultery, etc. . . .BUT. . . what did God say about David?
- Acts 13:21-22 And afterward they asked for a king; so God gave them Saul. . . .man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years.
22 And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.'

2. Love Covers My Many Sins

- Ps 119:97 Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.
- God's law is a description of who God is...the law reflects who God is...King David "loved" God and His law....and it covered a multitude of his sins.
- David also expressed his love towards God by repenting quickly once he saw his sin.
 - Ps 51:1-4 Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies,

2. *Love Covers My Many Sins*

- *Blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me. 4 Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight — That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.*
- *1 Sam 15/10- Saul on the other hand refused to repent for not following God's instructions in doing away with the king of the Amalekites and all of his livestock,he disobeyed God in order to worship God....what rebellion.*

2. Love Covers My Many Sins

- *Also, us being forgiven by Christ should give us the motivation to give others slack when they wrong us.*
- *Rom 5:7-9 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
- *Love does not “rub it in”.....it “rubs it out”.*
- *Pass on God’s love and forgiveness to others.*

Assessing Your Relationships With Love as the Standard

- *Parents* *Poor 1 – 3 – 5 – 7 – 9 Great*
- *Spouse* *Poor 1 – 3 – 5 – 7 – 9 Great*
- *Relative* _____ *Poor 1 – 3 – 5 – 7 – 9 Great*
- *Coworkers* _____ *Poor 1 – 3 – 5 – 7 – 9 Great*
- *Neighbors* _____ *Poor 1 – 3 – 5 – 7 – 9 Great*
- *Difficult* _____ *Poor 1 – 3 – 5 – 7 – 9 Great*
- *Children* _____ *Poor 1 – 3 – 5 – 7 – 9 Great*

Summary

- *Two Big Reasons for Giving Love Priority in Your Life:*
 - 1. Love proves that I belong to the family of God.*
 - 2. Love Covers My Many Sins*

Continue Next Week