

What Should Be Your Number One Aim in Life?

Part 8 2019



Our Working Scripture to Answer This Question

1 Cor 14:1 (TLB)

Let love be your greatest aim;....

*Today is Part 8 of our message series on trying to understand
God's Concept of.....*

Love

God's Expanded Answer

“To love God and to keep His commandments”

becomes our greatest aim in life

(1 Cor 14:1, 1 Jn 4:8-9, Jn 14:15)

This becomes our dominant life principle that will help guide us through all of the decisions we have to make in life.

When we have to make a life decision, we ask the question: Is this decision I am choosing aligned with this dominant life principle.

*Why Is This Message and Every Weekly Message
Important to Us as Individuals and as a Team?*

Because

God Needs Us....He Needs a People

*willing to give of themselves to carry out His Plan of Salvation
that He has for all of mankind.*

We want to be of greatest value to Him as participants in

His Plan

*We want to grow from
Being “Needy for God” to Being “Needed by God”*

*Our pursuit is not one of
“Love from God” BUT “Love for God”*

*We want to grow from
“What’s in it for me” to “What’s in it for God”.*

That God loves us is a given....we know that.

That there are rewards/blessing for obeying Him is also a given....we know that too.

But the real focus is not....

“Being Needy by Being Needed”

Let's not forget what we are trying to accomplish together as a small part of God's Universal Team!!!

Mission/Vision/Values/Target Area

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)

Our Mission Field Statement – Our City

● *Anyone being called by God who is not yet under the influence of Jesus the Messiah as well as those who choose to be drawn further into a closer-growing relationship with God through a deeper and fuller level of –*

- *Knowledge*
- *Understanding*
- *Application*

of God's Word, including long-lost-biblical-truths that are rarely taught in most churches that when applied will lead to true success in this life and everlasting life in the future.

Now for Today's Message

Learn a little bit more on what God has to say about...

LOVE!!!

Our last message was about....

Hating Evil!!!

- *We used this Scripture....*

- *Ps 97:10 You who love the Lord, hate evil!....*
- *We want to be a church that functions as one that “hates evil”.*
- *“Hating evil” is part of being a “loving church”.*
- *Abortion is an evil....so last week we committed to financially support the Pregnancy Care Center that helps fight the battle against abortion.*
- *If we are to be a “loving church”, we must “hate and help fight, the best we can, the evils of the world”....*

Be thinking of “other evils” that really make you angry. . . . angry enough for you “to do something” as an individual and we as a team and commit in helping to fight against these evils.

We can't solve all of the “evils in the world” God has a Plan for eventually solving all evils BUT we do need to do something now as Sabbath keepers to be out there joining the fight against evil.

You don't need a great number of truly evil people to carry out massive evil!!!

● *All you need is....*

- *Ordinary-decent people* who have allowed themselves to be deceived by evil people....Hitler convinced ordinary people to murder 6 million Jews.
- *People who benefit from the evil....*the assets and wealth of these 6 million Jews went to others who benefited from receiving these assets.
- *Good-kind-honest people* who “*lacked the courage*” to fight against the “*evils of the world*”. We don't want to fall into this last category. “*Courage*” is a rare trait....but that's what it takes to “*battle against evil*”.

Famous Quote

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”

Scripture Tells Us What God Thinks of the Cowardly – Those Who Lack Courage

- Rev 21:7-8 *He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. 8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."*
- God puts the "cowardly – those who lack courage" in the same category as other terrible sins.

Besides love it takes something else to battle against evil!!!

What is that something else?

- *That something else besides “loving God” is...the “FEAR of GOD”.*
- *“Fear God” – this commandment is repeated multiple times throughout the Bible...it’s not a suggestion...it’s a commandment.*
- *“God-loving” people ARE “God-fearing” people and “God-fearing” people ARE “God-loving” people.*
- *It take both working together to be recognized as people of God.*

Some Scriptural Examples

- Prov 8:13 *The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.*
- Pride and arrogance and a perverse mouth God considers as evil. . . . behaviors He says He hates.
- Satan had these issues (pride, arrogance, perverse mouth). . . . He convinced a third of the angels to follow him. . . . it only takes a few evil people to deceive others to also do evil things.
- Prov 9:10 *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."*

Some Scriptural Examples

- Deut 4:7-10 *"For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the Lord our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him? 8 And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day? 9 Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren,*

Some Scriptural Examples

- *10 especially concerning the day you stood before the Lord your God in Horeb, when the Lord said to me, 'Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.'*
- *Isa 11:2-3 The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.*

Some Scriptural Examples

- *3 His delight is in the fear of the Lord, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears;*
 - *Fearing God is a “delight”....not a burden to respect Him and stand in awe of Him....*
 - *When you “fear Him” as the ultimate powerful being that He is, there is no need to be afraid of any other powerful human being.*
 - *We fear “human judges” and “police officers when we are speeding”....shouldn't we also fear God.*

Fearing God Liberates You from Fearing Man

- *People fear those who are more powerful than they are. Therefore, the only way not to fear powerful people is to fear God, the most powerful being in the universe.*
- *Luke 12:4-5 "And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. 5 But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!"*

Fear is like Fire (Good and Bad)

- *Fear is like fire*
 - *Good – fire is good when it warms you in a cold winter day.*
 - *Bad – fire is bad if it burns your house down.*
- *Fear behind you* *prodding you/pushing you to be your best.*
- *Fear in front of you* *can be an obstacle to keep you from being your best.*
- *Fear of God, behind you* *can prod you to do your best; when it's behind you, it can paralyze you from reaching your best.*

God's people are going through a judgment period now!

Sentencing will come later at His return!

- *1 Peter 4:12-18* *Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. 14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.*

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- *15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. 16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter. 17 For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?*
- *Learn to "fear God" and make wise decisions...focus on the long term effects not the immediate pleasures...sin is pleasurable. The harm may not be immediately apparent...must look forward.*

*Biblical example of God rewarding those who fear
Him over fearing man!!!*

- *Ex 1:15-22 Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one was Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah; 16 and he said, "When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstools, if it is a son, then you shall kill him; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live." 17 But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive.*

*Biblical example of God rewarding those who fear
Him over fearing man!!!*

- *18 So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this thing, and saved the male children alive?" 19 And the midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are lively and give birth before the midwives come to them." 20 Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty.*

*Biblical example of God rewarding those who fear
Him over fearing man!!!*

- *21 And so it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them. 22 So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, "Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive."*
- *The midwives may have been Hebrews or Egyptians who served the Hebrews.*
- *It took courage for the midwives to disobey the Pharaoh... they were able to do it because they feared God more than they feared Pharaoh... they did this NOT because they loved God BUT feared.*

*Biblical example of God rewarding those who fear
Him over fearing man!!!*

- *Names of the midwives given but not the name of the Pharaoh....God's emphasis on them because of their courage as a result of "fearing God".*
- *It takes "courageous people" to be willing to fight evil....and to have this courage one must not only "love God" but also "fear God".*
- *It's a command to "love God" BUT we should not ignore the command to also "fear God".*

*Biblical example of God rewarding those who fear
Him over fearing man!!!*

- *Where there is “no fear of God”, evil runs rampant....this is were we are today is modern times.*
- *In North Korea, an atheist country, Christians are punished and thrown in prison for owning a Bible and they are willing to take that chance.*
- *We have no excuse for being loyal to God and His way of life. We have it easy BUT we still complain about many things....we need to stop complaining and display gratitude.*
- *We need to learn to be courageous and fight evil.*

Man's Duty – Fear God & Keep His Commandments

- *Eccl 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all.*
- *Where there is no fear, there is no shortage of sin and evil.*
- *Without fear, people will tend to go through life thinking it's no big deal to disobey God.*
- *God-loving and God-fearing work together... they compliment each other.... must have both.... fear without love can be paralyzing and love without fear can easily degenerate into cheap grace.*

*We want to be known as a church, not only as...
“God-loving” but also as “God-fearing”*

Our Aim in Life

“To love God, fear Him, and keep His commandments”.