

BRIEF PERSPECTIVE ON THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

A strong desire to obey the Greatest Commandment must be preceded by an experience of the embrace of the Father, the redeeming love of the Son of God and the transformative power of the Holy Spirit.

- John 3:16 'For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.'
- Romans 5:8 'but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.'
- Galatians 2:20 'I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me.'
- Ephesians 2:4-5 'But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved—'
- 1 John 4:19 'We love because He first loved us.'

If a person has not known God's love, that person cannot love God with all his heart, soul, mind and strength.

The apostle John writes strong words in 1 John 4:8 'Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.'

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WARMING UP

1. How do you know that someone loves you deeply? How do we know that God loves us sacrificially?
2. For those who have experienced the wondrous love of God, what is the demand of God?

INTO THE PASSAGES

The God we are to love - read Mark 12:29-31, Deuteronomy 6:4

3. Who is this God whom we are commanded to love?
4. Why are we commanded to love God with our entire being?
5. Who is our example in love and who is our tutor in love?

Loving others is an expression of our love to God

Read Romans 12:9-21, Romans 5:5, Gal 5:22, 2 Tim 1:7,

6. Now that we have a glimpse of how practical love looks like, how do we measure up? How does loving others help us to understand God's love?
7. What help do we get from God in loving?

MOVING FORWARD

1 John 4:8 'Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.'

Knowing God, experiencing His love and allowing Him to love others through us is a lifetime process. These processes are asynchronous. We do not wait until we are perfect to love. While the Spirit of God is at work in us, let us love one another and those outside of the kingdom of God.

Tell God you want to know Him more and ask Him to help you love better. He delights in these types of prayers.

LIFE TOGETHER

In Revelation 2 and 3, the apostle John under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, penned down what can be summarized as the 'Reminders of the King'.

The King will return one day and may He find BCEC to be a community of love - loving God, loving others.

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These notes are primarily for the Into the Passage portion, and are to be used just as guidelines or commentary notes. Most of them are my own thoughts, so take that with a grain of salt. Let the Word of God lead you to truth, not these notes.

INTO THE PASSAGES

The God we are to love - read Mark 12:29-31, Deuteronomy 6:4

8. Who is this God whom we are commanded to love?

The triune God is one God. There is only one God whom we can love, there is no other.

9. Why are we commanded to love God with our entire being?

Loving God with just our mind is dry and dull. Loving with my

10. Who is our example in love and who is our tutor in love?

Only one Person has ever loved God that way and Jesus is our example. Only the indwelling Holy Spirit can empower us to love God in a way that pleases Him.

Loving others is an expression of our love to God - read Romans 12:9-21, Romans 5:5, Gal 5:22, 2 Tim 1:7,

11. Now that we have a glimpse of how practical love looks like, how do we measure up? How does loving others help us to understand God's love?

Loving others allows us to experience how selfless God's love is.

12. What help do we get from God in loving?

We have seen the example of Christ who demonstrated His love that He gave His life. We can rely on the transformative power of the Holy Spirit in our lives (the fruit of the Spirit is love...)