

■ Finish up our series on Love this morning.

I have been doing this with you for about a year now. I want to say how much I appreciate this opportunity. This has allowed me to examine my own heart and mind and get some things down on paper. I feel like I have grown this year by spending these Sunday's with you.

What I have really tried to do is share my journey with you. I grew up here. Many of my influences were your influences. Some how, God picked us out, and CALLED us out. A call is a Holy thing. Your call is not my call. My job as a minister is not to make YOU into ME! But my job as a leader is to get out in front of you and say 'come follow me.'

I have had a lot of bosses in my life. A few exceptional leaders. You know the Israeli army loses more Generals than any other army on the planet. You know why. The Generals go into battle first. LEADERSHIP. A leader cannot take you where he is has not been – is not going – or is not willing to go. And you can't lead me if your not willing to take a bullet for me! Leadership is not what **YOU** lead. It is what you **LEAD**.

Biblical leadership is always – COME FOLLOW ME! That is what Jesus said. That is what Paul said. I really don't care what people say they believe. I care what they live. This whole year for me has been about 'come follow me.' I have challenged you on a lot of things. If you don't do anything with that, you won't be any different 5 years from now that you were 5 years ago. BUT I HAVE EXTENDED YOU AN INVITATION!

We have a God who never changes – but He is NEW EVERY MORNING.
He is always the same – but He never does the same thing twice.
Who He is never changes – what he does (how He does it) is ever changing.
SO MUST WE!! If you are not changing you are dying!!

And you might as well face that fact that ultimately – both your God and the Devil want the same thing for you! They both want you dead!!

■ John 10:10 the devil comes to kill! He would kill us all right now if He could. He hates God and anything that looks like, acts like, walks like, talks like God.

God on the other hand, doesn't want to kill you, but He does want us to die.

■ Gal 2:20 I have been crucified - no LONGER I THAT LIVES, but Christ that lives...

■ 1 Cor 15:31 Paul said "I die daily."

What are you DYING to see accomplished for God in your life? With your life?

We teach a whole course to our students called Love **Walk**. How are you walking it out?

■ Mark 12:28 ... Which is the first (greatest) commandment of all?

■ Mark 12:29 And Jesus answered him, **The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:**

Mark 12:30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

The greatest single commandment in the Bible is:

■ Love God with ALL of your: Heart, soul, mind and strength.

Now I know enough Bible to know that 3 out of those 4 words deal with your soul realm. No challenge to our spirit man here.

Not much too our body – except our body must express what the SPIRIT DIRECTS, and the SOUL agrees with.

■ Love God will all our Heart – *thoughts, feelings and emotions*

■ Love God will all our Soul – *literally breath – life – who you are – personality*

■ Love God will all our Mind – *all your focused mental energy*

■ Love God will all your Strength – *ability, power, strength is a way of saying to Love God in the areas where you have MORE.*

Love God with your skill. (What you are good at)

Love God with your finances. (The area in your life that keeps increasing)

Love God with your abilities. (The thing God uses)

Here is what I notice in that verse. WE DON'T CHECK OUR EMOTIONS AT THE DOOR! God does not want to corral or box you – He want to release and expand you.

He does not ask you to be less – He actually commands you to be more.

■ “ALL YOUR...”

I really want you to get this today. Find me one place in your Bible where anyone was rebuked, corrected or disciplined for WORSHIPPING TOO MUCH. **NEVER!**

Just the opposite. They were usually praised or used as an example. The woman we looked at last week!! She is the GOLD STANDARD. David.

The critics are the ones who are usually publically corrected. Micah Barren!!

Find me any place in your Bible where anyone was rebuked, corrected or disciplined for LOVING TOO MUCH. “You know what your problem is? You just love too much.” **AGAIN – NEVER! Always the opposite. OUR WOMAN AGAIN.** Lovers praised. Critics called our publically.

Find a single place in your Bible where anyone was rebuked, corrected or disciplined for GIVING TOO MUCH. “You are just too generous.” You won't find that either. And again – you find the extravagant GIVERS praised and held up as an example and the critics publically corrected.

Want to be like God? Then you can't be like YOU!!

■ You have to be like you ON GOD!

Your brain – your brain on God.

Your worship – your worship on God.

Your giving – your giving on God.

WE CAN'T PICK AND CHOSE WHAT IN THE BIBLE WE AGREE WITH AND WHAT WE DON'T. **NOT OUR BOOK!! NOT ABOUT ME!**

For me to be a 'Christian' means that I am 'Christ like'. Like Christ!

■ I can't represent Him if I don't PRESENT HIM!

I have worked with people for 30 years that mostly presented what they wanted – in His name!

It doesn't work that way.

YOU want to know why you are impacted when I speak?

Because this is not words on paper. I have spent the last 30 years of my life learning how to DIE TO ME. Some days I do good. Some I don't. ASK SANDRA!!!

But I am in pursuit of HIS LIFE and NOT MY LIFE! His plans not my plans. His way not my way. And almost everything He does is just the opposite of what I would do!!

■ We will always be critical of something we are not giving our life for!!

Why is all of this so important? Because what we just read is not even the kicker!
We haven't even gotten to the main point yet.

The main point is the next verse:

■ Mark 12:31 And the second is like it, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

Agape – without condition, expectation, question or hesitation. LOVE SOMEBODY ELSE – EVERYBODY ELSE – as much as you love you!!

THERE IS NO OTHER COMMANDMENT GREATER THAN THESE.

■ Matt. 22:40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Want to keep 4000 years of Biblical History? 10 Commandments? 600 rules, regulations and prohibitions? Learn to LIVE A LIFE OF LOVE!!

Every emotion, thought, motivation, conversation, action, and REACTION gets judged in heaven by that verse!! How did we respond in Love?

I said last week – it cost me NOTHING to be loved by God.

It might cost me everything to love Him back. WHY?

■ Because His standard for How I love HIM – is NOT how I love Him – it is HOW I LOVE EVERYBODY ELSE the way He would! (It's not just me and Jesus!)

This verse rest in the shadow of the cross. INSEPERABLE. The standard for how I love God with all my heart, soul, mind and strength is in how I do that with you, or my wife, or my co-workers, or homosexuals, or my enemies!

■ Matt. 5:44 But I say unto you, **Love** your enemies, **bless** them that curse you, **do good** to them that hate you, and **pray** for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; Matt. 5:45 That you may be the sons of your Father which is in heaven:

■ Sons = huioi – those that reflect the character and the nature of their Father.

LOVE IS WHO HE IS. If that is not who we are – then we are not sons yet!!
It pays to be a child of God – it cost to be a son. Because a son's primary thought is – How do I reflect my Father's heart in this circumstance – challenge – opportunity or opposition. It has cost us to build! Sat in more meetings with some knot head giving my life away – trying to save marriage, ministry! Paid my time and my money to get there!!

LOVE IS HEAVY! (CLOAK) If we get this – we will turn the world upside down!

■ 1Tim. 1:5 Now the end of the **commandment** is love (agape) out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned (does not quit):

The end goal of all we do as a church – a believer is LOVE.
Worship more – GIVE More – Love More –

We love God by loving what He loves – THE WAY HE LOVES!!

■ **We will always be critical of something we are not giving our life for!! Not the call!!**

■ Eph. 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Tell me again how Christ Loved the church? On a Cross!!

■ John 13:35 “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

■ 1John 5:3 For this is the **love** of God, that we keep his **commandments**: What commandments? The two we have been talking about carry all the rest

■ **1 Corinthians 2:9** *“However, as it is written: ‘No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him--’”*

WE MUST GET THIS! Love is the key that unlocks all the rest!