

LOVING GOD

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Disciples of Jesus Christ are heralds of the gospel. As Jesus' followers, we declare to the world about who He is and what He has done. As we drumbeat for the imminent return of the King, it is always good for us to be reminded that as we do the work He has planned out for us, the LORD first issued a Mandate for us to be! Yes, there is a Mandate that came before the Mission of making disciples that will allow us to be faithful and joyful partakers of the work until He comes.

The great Shema confession in Deuteronomy 6:5 reads *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might"*.

To love God with all our heart, soul, and might is to love God with all our being. To love God to the core of our being is to love Him with all that we are. It stresses that the starting point of one's living is about loving God.

The Lord Jesus reiterated this truth in Matthew 22 when the religious people were around Him not to learn but to trap Him. As such, a lawyer came and asked the Master with the intention to test Him and said,

³⁶ "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" ³⁷ And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (Matthew 22:36-39)

The reiteration of Jesus truly settles the issue of man's main pursuit in life – to LOVE GOD. While loving God can be a complex idea, I see four ways by which we can love Him with all our being.

First, Loving God is about Knowing His Son Jesus in an intimate relationship with Him.

John 3:16 tells us about the great love of the Father for mankind making Him send Jesus to fulfill the work of redemption.

The Apostle Paul in Philippians 3:8-10 also describes his relationship with Christ as incomparable to anything he is and has in this lifetime. That apart from Jesus, his life is nothing! As such, this makes Jesus his primary pursuit.

Second, loving God is about delighting in His Word and keeping them.

Our delight in God's Word is making it a priority in our daily lives despite the noise around us. As the Word of God is ingrained in our hearts and minds, we learn and enjoy keeping it for it delights the Lord as well and is an expression of our love for Him!

²¹ *Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me - JOHN 14:21*

Third, Loving God is about trusting in Him and seeking Him only!

Jesus taught his disciples what it means to follow and trust Him as

recorded in Matthew 6. To follow Him is not to be anxious about tomorrow. Jesus painted a very graphic picture as to how He is able to care for the birds and clothe the lilies of the field. He used the imagery of the grass and the birds to teach those who follow Him to trust Him. At the end of the section, Jesus tells them to seek God first – to seek God only!

Fourth, Loving God is partaking in His work and serving Him passionately.

When we think about the love of God—we will all the more be amazed by His goodness and grace. God's grace is evident in the things that we do, in the things He allows for us to do, in the opportunities the Lord wants us to excel and grow, and always in the challenges that He allows us to go through to show His deliverance in the middle of the storm!

Oh, how awesome is the love of God! This love that we have and enjoy is the same love that we are to love and serve others in His name.

The perfect love of our Maker, our Savior, and Redeemer towards us a sinner is the only **SOLID BEDROCK** that cradles the mission He has given us-- to make disciples of all nations!

Let us be found faithful in LOVING GOD AND LOVING OTHERS. SHARE THE GOSPEL. ✝