

LOVE GOD ~ LOVE OTHERS ~ DO GOOD

[Jesus] “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.”

– Mark 12:29-31

LOVING GOD...

1 – Is a COMMAND because God knows what’s best for us

“The heart of the matter is a matter of the heart.”

“Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.” – Psalm 4:23

“Let love be your highest goal.” – 1 Corinthians 14:1

2 – Is a CHOICE because whatever gets our attention gets us

“Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.” – Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:31

“As a face is reflected in water, so the heart reflects the real person.” – Proverbs 27:19

“Guard your heart above all else for it determines the course of your life.” – Proverbs 4:23

3 – Is a CONNECTION because loving God requires knowing God

“The person who loves God is the one whom God recognizes.” – 1 Corinthians 8:3

“Show love to the Lord your God by walking in his ways and holding tightly to him.” – Deuteronomy 11:22

“Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong.” – Ephesians 3:17

4 – Is a COMMITMENT because God makes it clear He wants us “all in”

“Feeling love without exhibiting commitment is meaningless.”

- Through EXTERNAL obedience
- And INTERNAL submission

“You must love the Lord your God and always obey his requirements, decrees, regulations and commands.”

– Deuteronomy 11:1

“People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” – 1 Samuel 16:7

“Be very careful to obey all the commands and the instructions that Moses gave to you. Love the Lord your God, walk in all his ways, obey his commands, hold firmly to him, and serve him with all your heart and all your soul.” – Joshua 22:5

[Jesus] “If you love me, obey my commandments.” – John 14:15

WE LOVE GOD...

1 – By giving Him our ATTENTION

“Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.” – Philippians 4:8 [see also Psalm 27:4]

2 – By giving Him our AFFECTION

“Dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.” – Romans 12:1

3 – By giving Him our APPRECIATION

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.” – 1 Chronicles 16:34 [15 times in Psalms]

“Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:18