

RELATIONSHIP GOALS

Mark 12:28-31

- ***What is my #1 goal in life?***
- **The #1 goal in our life will be our "dominant life principle."**
- Jesus - *"The most important commandment is this . . . '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)
- **Jesus said our #1 goal in life should be to love God and others better and better.**

A Top Priority In Life Should Be To:

PASSIONATELY LOVE OUR LORD

- Jesus - *"The most important command is this . . . You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and all your strength."* (Mark 12:29-30)
- **Our love for and commitment to the Lord should be greater than our love for and/or commitment to anyone or anything else in our lives.**
- **We show our love for the Lord by *Giving Him Affection*** (*"all your heart"*).
    - The Lord - *"I want you to show love, not offer sacrifices. I want you to know Me more than I want burnt offerings."* (Hosea 6:6)
    - **The Lord doesn't want ritual and religion; He wants a passionate relationship with us.**
    - David - *"With all my heart I will praise You, O Lord my God. I will give glory to Your name forever, for Your love for me is very great. You have rescued me from the depths of death."* (Psalm 86:12-13)
- **We show our love for the Lord by *Giving Him Our Allegiance*** (*"all your soul"*).
    - **The "soul" refers to our mind, emotions and will – the things that we think about, we have emotions about and we want for our lives.**

    - "If you do not plan to live the Christian life totally committed to knowing your God and to walking in obedience to Him, then don't begin; for this is what Christianity is all about." – Kay Arthur
    - **The best way to express our allegiance to God is by putting Him first in our lives.**
    - *"Give yourselves completely to God since you have been given new life."* (Romans 6:13)
- **We show our love for the Lord by *Giving Him Our Attention*** (*"all your mind."*).
    - **We have to overcome self-centeredness to really focus on the Lord.**
    - *"Focusing on yourself is the opposite of focusing on God. Anyone completely absorbed in self ignores God, and ends up thinking more about self than God."* (Romans 8:7 Msg)
    - **Daily devotion times, constant communication with the Lord, and regular connections with other Christians helps us to stay focused on the Lord.**
    - *"You (O God) will keep in perfect peace all who trust in You, all whose thoughts are fixed on You!"* (Isaiah 26:3)
- **We show our love for the Lord by *Giving Him Our Abilities*** *("all your strength.")*
    - **Our love for the Lord and for others must be expressed not just with words but with actions and service as well.**
    - ***What are some things I should be doing for the Lord and His kingdom that would demonstrate my love for Him?***
    - *"Serve the Lord enthusiastically."* (Romans 12:11)
- ***In what ways do I need to better demonstrate my love for the Lord?***

A Top Priority In Life Should Be To:

<u>GENUINELY</u> LOVE OTHER PEOPLE

- Jesus - *"A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"* (Mark 12:31)
- **It's impossible to love the Lord with our heart, soul, mind, and strength and not genuinely love others as well (1 John 4:7-8, 20-21).**
- **We can genuinely love others because *Love Is A Choice*.**
    - *"Clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony."* (Colossians 3:14)
- **We can genuinely love others because *Love Is An Action Not Just An Emotion.***
    - *"Let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions."* (1 John 3:18)
    - **Acting in love when we don't feel like it is the highest form of love.**

    - **It's always easier to "act our way into a feeling" than it is to "feel our way into an action" (Revelation 2:4-5).**
- **We can genuinely love others because *Love Is A Skill We Can Develop*.**
    - *"Let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God."* (1 John 4:7)
- **We can genuinely love others because *Love Is A Habit We Can Adopt*.**
    - **The truth is we can't claim to be a loving person unless we are habitually loving towards others.**
    - Jesus – *"If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them!*(Luke 6:32)
    - **Being loving towards others needs to become a lifestyle for us.**
    - *"Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters."* (Hebrews 13:1)
    - **It takes approximately 6 weeks to establish a habit in our lives.**

- **To have healthy, loving relationships we need to have periodic checkups.**
- *"Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves . . ."* (2 Corinthians 13:5)
- **ASSESSING OUR RELATIONSHIPS** 1-3-5-7-9 (1 is poor and 9 is really good)
    - 1) Spouse ___, 2) Children ___, 3) Boyfriend/Girlfriend ___, 4) Parents ___, 5) Siblings ___, 6) Other Relatives ___, 7) Friends ___, 8) Co-workers ___, 9) Neighbors ___, 10) Church Family ___.
- ***Do the people around me and the people that follow me on social media know I'm a follower of Jesus by the love they see radiating from me?***
- Jesus - *"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are My disciples."* (John 13:35)
- *"Those who accept My commandments and obey them are the ones who love Me."* (John 14:21)
- **We will develop our "love skills" for the Lord and people as we: 1) attend worship services, 2) get involved in a Life Group, and 3) realize how much God loves us.**
- *"God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. . . . So we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God."* (Romans 5:8, 11)
- ***What is the Lord communicating to me through this message, and what will be my response to Him?***