

TOP LIFE PRINCIPLES

Mark 12:29-31; 1 Corinthians 14:1, 16:14

- 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 top priorities in life should be to love God and others better and better.**
- *"Let love be your highest goal!"* (1 Corinthians 14:1)
- **When it comes to loving others we need to understand that: 1) love is a choice, 2) love is an action, not just an emotion, 3) love is a skill we can develop, and 4) love is a habit we can adopt.**
- *"Do everything with love."* (1 Corinthians 16:14)
- **Life is one giant lesson about LOVE rather than primarily being about acquisitions, accomplishments or achievements.**
- ***What are the 3 "Laws of Love" and how can they help me become a better "lover of God and others"?***

Becoming A Better "Lover" Involves Understanding:

THE BEST USE OF LIFE IS <u>LOVE</u>

- **Jesus said that learning how to love Him and others should be our top priorities, objective, ambition and life purpose (Mark 12:29-31).**
- ***Why did Jesus say that focusing our lives on loving Him and others is more important than anything else?***
- **Love is very important because it *Validates Our Faith.***
    - **To get to Heaven we have to validate our identity or prove we really do know God.**
    - *"Anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.."* (1 John 4:8)

    - *"If someone says, 'I love God,' but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see?"* (1 John 4:20)
- **Love is very important because it *Integrates Our Life*.**
    - **When our lives are fragmented or segmented into different parts it demonstrates that we lack integrity.**
    - **When love is our "dominant life principle" it draws every aspect of our life together.**
    - *"Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony."* (Colossians 3:14)
- **Love is very important because it *Compensates For Our Sin*.**
    - **When we "blow it" in life, God first wants to know if we love His Son, Jesus Christ, and then if we truly love others.**
    - *"Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, <u>for love covers a multitude of sins.</u>"* (1 Peter 4:8)
    - **Our love for Jesus causes the Lord to forgive us for all the sins we've committed.**
    - *"He (God) canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross."* (Colossians 2:14)
    - **Being forgiven by the Lord gives us the incentive and power to forgive others and "let them off the hook."**
    - **More important than being perfect is loving God with all our heart.**
- **Love is very important because it *Reverberates Forever*.**
    - *"Three things <u>will last forever</u>; faith, hope and love. And the greatest of these is love."* (1 Corinthians 13:13)
    - **If we want a lasting legacy, we must learn how to really love others.**
    - **God says that "a life without love" is a wasted and worthless life.**
    - *"No matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love."* (1 Corinthians 13:3 Msg)
    - **When we focus on things less important than love and relationships, we give "first class allegiance" to "second class causes."**
    - **Life is not about achievements – it is about love!**

Becoming A Better "Lover" Involves Understanding:

THE BEST EXPRESSION OF LOVE IS <u>TIME</u>

- *"Let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions."* (1 John 3:18)
- ***What is the most desired gift of love?***
- **Giving attention to someone is the greatest gift we can give because we are giving them our most precious resource – time.**

- **Jesus said that the essence of a true loving relationship is how much we give of ourselves to that person.**
- *"What is important is faith expressing itself in love."* (Galatians 5:6)
- "I've come to believe that the speed of society is as much responsible for the problems of person and social dysfunction as any other single factor. Virtually all of our relationships are damaged by hurry. We're always in a hurry. Many families are being starved to death by velocity. We walk fast, we talk fast, we eat fast. Then announce, 'Sorry, I've gotta run!' God, I suspect, doesn't fit any better into our break neck schedules than our children do." - Dr. Richard Swenson
- "Busyness destroys relationships. It substitutes shallow frenzy for deep friendships. Busyness feeds the ego but it starves those who love us. It fills the calendar, but fractures the family." - Chuck Swindoll
- *"Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered Himself as a sacrifice for us . . ."* (Ephesians 5:2)
- ***Who is God leading me to better share my love with by spending more TIME with them this week?***

Becoming A Better "Lover" Involves Understanding:

THE BEST TIME TO LOVE IS <u>NOW</u>

- **Some people need to start loving, living for the Lord and giving now.**
- *"<u>Whenever we have opportunity</u>, we should do good to everyone."* (Galatians 6:10)
- *"If you can help your neighbor now, don't say, 'Come back tomorrow, and then I'll help you.'"* (Proverbs 3:27-28)
- ***Who do I need to show love to TODAY?***

- **One of the best places to experience and express love is in a Life Group.**
- **We should never ever postpone showing love to others.**
- **If love is the essence of life, our #1 goal in life and the reason God put us here on Earth, then loving God and others should always take priority over everything.**
- *"Eagerly pursue and seek to acquire love. Make it your aim, your great quest . . ."* (1 Corinthians 14:1 Amp)

· **HOMEWORK**

- **Take 5, 10 or 15 minutes every day to talk with each of your family members, looking them in the face and listening to them.**
- **Spend time with the person(s) God has placed in your life (apologizing, empathizing, talking or laughing together)**
- **Get involved with others in a LIfe Group for the LOVE FOR REAL series**