

Personal / Small Group Sermon Study

The Greatest of These is Love

Week of May 13, 2018 A.D.

God created the church to be a family within which we are to learn how to love God and how to love one another. Let's talk about that in this week's lesson.

Read John 3:16-18

1. Why did God send his son into the world? What is God's motivation for wanting to save the world? What does it mean "to believe" in Jesus? Are you a person who is saved or are you a person who is condemned? Please explain your answers.

Read Ephesians 2:8-10

2. To be "saved" means to be forgiven of your sins, to be granted eternal life, to be spared from the coming wrath of God, and to be adopted into the family of God. According to verses 8-9, did you earn your salvation in any way? How has your salvation been accomplished? Please explain.
3. Read verse 10. What does it mean: (a) to be God's workmanship; and (b) to be created in Christ Jesus?
4. Does God have a purpose for your life? If so, are you under an obligation to God to (a) discover your purpose and (b) fulfill your purpose? Why? Please explain.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

5. Is there anything of more importance to you than to know and to fulfill God's intention and purpose for your life? If so, what is more important and why? Please explain how you have arranged your daily life and activities to enable yourself to increasingly know and fulfill God's purpose for your life.
6. Can a person "be saved" and yet not want to please God? Please explain your answer.
7. What advice would you give to a person who asks you what they must do in order to live a life which is pleasing to God? Please explain the reasons for and the source of your advice.

8. Is it (a) foolish or (b) wise for a person to want to receive eternal rewards from Jesus? Is it (a) foolish or (b) wise for a person to engage in the behavior which the Bible teaches will be pleasing to Jesus? Please explain your answers.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1; 4-7; 11

9. Based upon these verses, does God equip each and every Christian with the ability to do good works? If so, why does He do so? Please explain.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3; 13

10. What is supposed to be the primary motivation for everything which a follower of Christ might do? Why? Please explain.

Read John 13:33-35

11. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Jesus chose, taught, and trained his disciples for the express and deliberate purpose of preparing them to continue Jesus' earthly mission after Jesus' death."
12. Is love essential and central to the life of each and every follower of Christ? Please explain your answer.
13. Read verse 34 very carefully. Does Jesus expect us (i.e. his current-day disciples) to demonstrate to the world and to each other the same manner and measure of love which Jesus demonstrated to his disciples? Is that possible for us to do? Please explain.

Read Ephesians 3:14-19

14. Is it possible for a Christian to be filled with the love of Christ? Does it take deliberate effort and commitment "to be filled" to the measure of the fullness of God? Is this (i.e. "to be filled to the measure of the fullness of God") a group undertaking which requires the participation of your entire church family? Please explain your role in this undertaking. What are you doing to fulfill your role?

Consider: The church is the body of Christ on earth. We are commanded to love one another and to make Jesus and His salvation known to all the world through the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit. "You think about that." Amen.