

40 Days of Love - Part 2

Three Laws of Love

1 John 4:7-12 The Message

My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. The person who refuses to love doesn't know the first thing about God, because God is love—so you can't know him if you don't love. This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him. This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God.

My dear, dear friends, if God loved us like this, we certainly ought to love each other. No one has seen God, ever. But if we love one another, God dwells deeply within us, and his love becomes complete in us—perfect love!

If you want your life to count you have to focus it. You don't have time for everything. And not everything is of equal value.

Jesus said there are two things that are more valuable in life than anything else. Loving God and loving each other.

Last week we looked at a verse in Mark 12. It's called the Great Commandment when we were talking about five principles of love.

When asked, what is the most important command, Jesus replied "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second most important is similar: Love your neighbor as much as you love yourself.*"

God says these are the two things that matter most in life. He says if you get these two you've got it.

God put you here on earth to do two things: to learn to love God and to learn to love other people

Life is not about acquisition – how much I get.

It's not about accomplishment – how much I do.

It's not about achievement – how important I am.

It's not about all the other things we're told life's about.

Because all of that you're going to leave behind. You're not taking your career to heaven. You're not taking your car to heaven. You're not taking your house to heaven. But you are taking your character. You're taking *you*.

This morning we're going to look at what I believe are the three laws of love. If you're going to ever be a great lover, got to learn and keep in your mind the three laws of love.

I. Law number one: **The best use of life is love.**

4 reasons why love is more important than anything else.

A. Love validates our faith.

1. He says the proof of faith is love.
2. That's true in many areas of life.
 - a. Go to an ATM machine, or to a bank.
 - b. You need a pin number or an ID.
3. In order for you to get into heaven, you have to validate your identity.
 - a. You have to prove that you really are a child of God.
 - b. Ole and Lena, spell love to get into heaven.
4. How do you validate that identity?
 - a. The Bible says "*Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.*"
5. The reason why God wants you to learn to love on earth is because he wants you to become like him.
 - a. 1 John 4:20 says, "*If we say we love God, but we hate other, we're liars. For we cannot love God, whom we have not seen, if we do not love others, whom we have seen.*"
6. Love validates our faith.

B. Love integrates our life.

1. It becomes the dominant life principle by which everything else in our life is integrated.
 - a. Our social life, financial life, church life, work life, married life etc.
 - b. Every part of our life is integrated by love.
2. We need to have something at the core of your heart that draws your life together.
3. Everybody's got a dominant life principle.
 - a. Everybody builds their life around something.
 - b. Some build their life around money.
 - c. Some around fame, or becoming popular.
 - d. Some people build their life around success.
 - e. Some people build their life around a hobby.
4. What you need is something that's not going to fall apart when the trials come.

5. The only thing strong enough to do that is love.
 - a. *“Love is more important than anything else. It is what ties everything else together.”*
 6. It should integrate our life.
- C. Love compensates for our sin.
1. This is really good news when you understand it.
 2. It means when we blow it, when we make mistakes, when we sin, that God says,.
 - a. “My first question is not, did he sin?
 - b. My first question is, does he love me?
 - c. Does he love my Son Jesus Christ?
 - d. If so we’re just going to cover over that sin.
 - e. We’re going to compensate for it.
 3. 1 Peter 4:8 *“Most important of all continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.”*
 4. What does that mean?
 - a. Jesus says because I love you everything you’ve ever done and everything you ever will do that is wrong, will be forgiven.
 - b. Once we’ve been forgiven God gives us the power to forgive.
 - (1) When you love somebody and they blow it, love doesn’t rub it in, It rubs it out.
 5. God says I want you to experience my love so you can pass it on.
 - a. God uses imperfect people, to get the job done.
 6. One of the great stories in the Bible is the story of King David.
 - a. David was not exactly a perfect guy.
 - b. He lied. He cheated. He stole another guy’s wife. He committed adultery. Then he had that guy murdered to cover up his sin.
 - c. But even after all of that,
 7. God said David, is a man after my own heart.
 8. Get this, if you don’t get anything else.
 - a. More important than you being perfect is that you love God with all your heart.
 - b. God knows you can’t be perfect.
 - c. What matters is do you love God with all your heart?
 - d. If you do that it will cover a multitude of sins.
- D. Love reverberates forever.
1. It means it goes on and on and on.
 - a. It’s the only thing in life that’s going to last.
 2. The Bible says this. *“These three things continue forever. Faith, hope and love. And the greatest of these is love.”*

- a. People are never remembered for what they made, but for what they gave away.
- b. Story of Larry Clark (p93 in when it's all over it goes back into the box.)
- c. In contrast to Armand Hammer chairman of Occidental petroleum Co.
3. When people are dying they don't want things around them.
 - a. They want the people that they love.
4. The Bible says: "*No matter what I say or what I believe or what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.*"
5. Why are we doing 40/50 Days of Love?
6. Because I want the rest of our life to be the best of our life.
7. Law number one is the best use of life is love.

II. Law number two: **The best expression of love is time.**

A. You spell love T-I-M-E.

1. The Bible says this in 1 John 3:18 "*We must show love through actions. Actions that are sincere, not through empty words.*"
2. Question: What is the most desired gift of love?
 - a. It's not diamonds, or chocolate, or flowers.
 - b. The most desired gift of love and the most priceless gift is time.
 - c. That is the greatest gift you can give.
 - d. Time is our most precious resource.
3. We all have different amounts of energy, of wealth, of talent.
4. But we all have the same amount of time. A 168 hours a week.
 - a. We choose how to use it.
5. When you give a minute of your time your never going to get it back.
6. That's why the most valuable, thing you can give them is time.
7. It means, I'm putting your needs ahead of mine.
 - a. That's called love.
8. The Bible says this "*The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.*"
9. Virtually all of our relationships are damaged by hurry.
10. Chuck Swindoll, said "Busyness destroys relationships. It substitutes shallow frenzy for deep friendship. Busyness feeds the ego but it starves those who love us. It fills the calendar but it fractures the family."
11. We say, how do we find more time for the people we love in life?
 - a. That's really the wrong question.

- b. They should be the priority.
 - c. Then figure out how to fit the rest into that.
12. Remember the song the cat's in the cradle.

III. Law number three: **The best time to love is now.**

- A. We want to put off to tomorrow what we can and should do today.
 - 1. The Bible says "*Whenever we have the opportunity we should do good to everyone.*"
 - 2. "*Whenever you possibly can, do good to those who need it. Never tell your neighbor to wait until tomorrow if you can help them now.*"
 - 3. Never procrastinate in showing love.
 - 4. There are activities you can procrastinate on.
 - a. But showing love is not one of them.

- B. In the 1972 election George McGovern was running against Richard Nixon and McGovern and Charles Colson were on opposite sides of the political spectrum. But they both ended up with the same regrets. Chuck Colson wrote this, "As I think back on my life my biggest regret is not spending more time with my kids. Making family your top priority means going against a culture where materialism and workaholism are rampant. It means being willing to accept a lower standard of living knowing that you're doing it for your kids. It means giving them them emotional security that they'll draw on for the rest of their lives."

Then George McGovern, wrote a book about his daughter Terry who died in 1994. She was an alcoholic. They found her frozen to death in a snowdrift in a drunken stupor. After his daughter died, McGovern poured over her diaries and contacted many of her friends and he discovered that he hadn't been the parent that he thought he was. While he was reading her diaries he discovered this, while he was spending eighteen hours a day working for political causes Terry was writing in her diary how much she missed her daddy. And that he probably didn't care about her anyway." McGovern's message to parents: "Show more love to your kids by spending more time with them. Especially as teenagers. No matter what it costs your career. That way," he said "neither of you will have regrets."

Then this was a very poignant quote. He said "I'd give everything I have – and I mean *everything* – for one more afternoon with Terry. Just to let her know how much I loved her and to have one more of those happy times that we used to have so infrequently."

- C. The question is not whether we're ever going to regret living an

overloaded, furiously driven life. The question is just *when*.

I hope our goal for 40 Days of Love is that we will become more loving. The best use of life is love. The best expression of love is time. The best time to love is now.