

## Summer Lovin' – Part 2 Deepening Our Relationships Father's Day – 2023

One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" Jesus replied, "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.**'<sup>1</sup> The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."

Mark 12:28-31 (NLT)

For God commanded, saying, '**Honor your father and your mother**'

Matthew 15:4 (NKJV)

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.

Philippians 2:5 (NIV)

- **True manhood and Christlikeness are synonymous.**

Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.

Ephesians 5:1-2 (MSG)

- **We must imitate God, because we are children of Christ.**

Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. **Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ.** He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.

Ephesians 5:1-2 (NLT)

- **To imitate the Father is to follow the example of Christ.**

- **To follow the example of Christ is to live a life of love.**

### 1. Living a life of love means - We seek to serve.

When the other ten heard of this conversation, they lost their tempers with James and John. Jesus got them together to settle things down. "You've observed how godless rulers throw their weight around," he said, "and when people get a little power how quickly it goes to their heads. It's not going to be that way with you. **Whoever wants to be great must become a servant.** Whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave. That is what the Son of Man has done: **He came to serve, not to be served**—and then to give away his life in exchange for many who are held hostage."

Mark 10:41-45 (MSG)

"If any of you wants to serve me, then follow me. **Then you'll be where I am, ready to serve at a moment's notice.** The Father will honor and reward anyone who serves me.

John 12:26 (MSG)

My friends, you were chosen to be free. So don't use your freedom as an excuse to do anything you want. **Use it as an opportunity to serve each other with love.**

Galatians 5:13 (CEV)

### 2. Living a life of love means - We speak the truth.

"There's trouble ahead when you live only for the approval of others, saying what flatters them, doing what indulges them. **Popularity contests are not truth contests**—look how many scoundrel preachers were approved by your ancestors! **Your task is to be true, not popular.**

Luke 6:26 (MSG)

**Love should always make us tell the truth.** Then we will grow in every way and be more like Christ, the head.

Ephesians 4:15 (CEV)

What this adds up to, then, is this: **no more lies, no more pretense. Tell your neighbor the truth.** In Christ's body we're all connected to each other, after all. **When you lie to others, you end up lying to yourself.**

Ephesians 4:25 (MSG)

### 3. Living a life of love means - We never stop praying.

But **I have pleaded in prayer for you,** Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers."

Luke 22:32 (NLT)

But the angel said to him, "**Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard;** and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.

Luke 1:13 (NKJV)

In Jerusalem at the time, there was a man, Simeon by name, a good man, **a man who lived in the prayerful expectancy** of help for Israel. And the Holy Spirit was on him. The Holy Spirit had shown him that he would see the Messiah of God before he died.

Luke 2:25-26 (MSG)

### 4. Living a life of love means - We do not carry grudges.

When they got to the place called Skull Hill, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right, the other on his left. 34-35 Jesus prayed, "**Father, forgive them; they don't know what they're doing.**"

Luke 23:33-34 (MSG)

If you **forgive others** for the wrongs they do to you, your Father in heaven **will forgive you.** But **if you don't forgive others,** your Father **will not forgive your sins.**

Matthew 6:14-15 (CEV)

I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you've received it, it will be yours. But when you are praying, **first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against,** so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.

Mark 11:24-26 (NLT)

Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, **the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.**

Colossians 3:13 (NLT)