

New Years Resolutions

Loving People

Our Purpose

Matt 22:35-40

One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" 37 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'" 38 This is the first and greatest commandment.

39 And the SECOND is like it: 'LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Myth – You can love God in Isolation

Jer 22:15-16

He did what was right and just, so all went well with him.

16 He DEFENDED THE CAUSE OF THE POOR AND NEEDY, and so all went well.

IS THAT NOT WHAT IT MEANS TO KNOW ME?" declares the LORD.

To Love God is to Imitate Him

Eph 5:1-2

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and LIVE A LIFE OF LOVE, just as Christ loved us and GAVE HIMSELF UP for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

I John 4:16

God IS LOVE. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.

True Faith is Knowing and Doing

Luke 10:25-37

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"
26 "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"
27 He answered: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF.'"
28 "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "DO THIS AND YOU WILL LIVE."
29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?"
30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.

True Faith is Knowing and Doing

31 A PRIEST happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he PASSED BY ON THE OTHER SIDE. 32 So too, a LEVITE, when he came to the place and saw him, PASSED BY ON THE OTHER SIDE. 33 But a SAMARITAN, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he SAW him, he TOOK PITY on him. 34 He went to him and BANDAGED HIS WOUNDS, pouring on oil and wine. Then he PUT THE MAN ON HIS DONKEY, TOOK HIM TO AN INN and TOOK CARE OF HIM. 35 The next day he took out two SILVER COINS and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will REIMBURSE YOU FOR ANY EXTRA EXPENSE you may have.'

36 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" 37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "GO AND DO LIKEWISE."

Love – Evidence of Our Faith

Non-Christians may not remember what they've been told regarding God's love, but they always remember what they've experienced of God's love.

Steve Sjogren - The Conspiracy of Kindness

Love – Evidence of Our Faith

John 13:34-35

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 BY THIS ALL MEN WILL KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES, if you love one another."

Practical Faith

We show love for one another when we:

1. Encourage each other

Heb 3:13

"But exhort each other daily – whilst it is called today.."

2. Esteem others above ourselves

Romans 12: 9 & 10

"Let love be without hypocrisy ... Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honour giving preference to one another"

Practical Faith

**We show love for one another
when we:**

3. Bear with each other

4. Are kind and compassionate

Eph 4:2
Eph 4:32

*"And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another
even as God in Christ has forgiven you (imitators of Christ)."*

*"With all lowliness and gentleness with
longsuffering bear with one another.."*

5. Forgive one another