

REALATIONSHIPS

Love God With All You Are Week of January 17 , 2020

Intro Discussion Questions:

- What would you consider to be your most valuable possession? Why is it worth so much to you?
- Is it possible to love God with all you are if you believe you have no self worth? Explain.

Read Bible Study Summary:

In declaring the Great Commandment to his followers, Jesus makes it clear that we are to love God with every aspect of our lives: our heart, our soul, our mind and our strength. This encompasses surrender of the entire self to God, who is worthy of our life's devotion, because he gave the life of his one and only son for us on a cross. So, Jesus says we are to love him with everything and love our neighbor as yourself. But, how is this possible if you believe you are worthless, no good, and unlovable? The overarching theme of this Bible lesson is that you can't. You have worth to God and he has equipped each of his children with a purpose and God-given gifts in life to love Him with all you are!

Read Main Scripture

- **Mark 12:28-34 (Emphasis on verses 30-31)**

Introduction

- While we often underestimate the value of human beings, we frequently overestimate their virtue. Our culture conditions us to think that people are intrinsically good and possess an innate desire to live righteously. Most people believe this about themselves. But Scripture describes humanity as sick and sinful. God wants us to humble ourselves, admit we are sinners in need of the mercy, grace, forgiveness, and love of God! However, God never, ever intended for us to hate ourselves or despise ourselves! In fact one of the biggest lies of our enemy, Satan, is that we are no good, useless, worthless, unlovable, unforgivable, and have no value to God or to others! While we aren't worthy of his love, we are incredibly valuable to him!
- In order for us to love God with all we are, we must understand the concept of our uniqueness and our worth to God! God loves us so much, and in response, we ought to love Him with all we are! How do we do that? Let's look at the command of Jesus more closely.

The Main Points

1. **Loving God with all your heart!**

- The heart, or as the Greeks would call it, the kardia, is at the very center of our physical lives. Our physical heart pumps life giving blood throughout our bodies. In the same way, the Bible

tells us that our spiritual hearts are at the center of our lives and form the essence of who we are and what we value. What we value affects everything we do! It affects our priorities, our goals, our attitudes and our actions! If we are to love God with all our heart, our heart must be in the right place.

- **Read Psalm 51:10-12** - *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.*
 - **Ask Question** - In what ways does your heart need to be purified before the Lord for you to return to the joy of your salvation?

2. Loving God with all your soul!

- **Read Psalm 139:13-16** *For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.*
- This is a quote by pastor and author Max Lucado: "There is more to your life than you ever thought. There is more to your story than what you have read. There is more to your song than what you have sung. A good author saves the best for last. A great composer keeps his finest for the finish. And God, the author of life and composer of hope, has done the same for you...The best is yet to be."
 - **Ask Question:** God was pleased to create you, and so our souls should desire only what pleases him. In what ways does your soul desire to please God?

3. Loving God with all your mind!

- **Psalm 139:1-4** *You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely.*
- God has given you a mind that causes you to have a unique personality and unique abilities. There is only one you. As Christians, we've all been called, set apart and gifted by God for a task, a calling, a life work! We've not all been called to do the same thing, but in the end, we've all been called by the same God for the same reason - to make a difference in this world for Jesus!
 - **Ask Question:** What are some ways you can use your uniqueness to love God with all your mind?

● Loving God with all your strength!

- **Read Romans 12:1** - Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.
- Loving God with all our strength means using our body and our mind to serve God - living sacrifices serving a living God! You have been given special strengths, talents, gifts, abilities, and you are to use those to bring glory to God!

- **Ask Question** - *In what ways is your strength spent on serving God alone?*

Closing In Prayer

- Ask Question: What is the greatest challenge you are facing? Is there some way our group can help?
- Pray together over those requests.