

COMMANDS

THE 7 BASIC ~~SUGGESTIONS~~ OF JESUS

This week, we began a series on the 7 Basic Commands of Jesus. The first of these is to love God and others. What do you think of when you hear the word love? Is it warm, fuzzy feelings or an overused word that has become meaningless? Perhaps it's a commitment word devoid of any emotion at all? Let's look at what the Bible has to say about love.

The Greek language has 4 separate words that all translate to the English word love. Look up the meaning of each of these words:

Eros love: _____

Storge love: _____

Philia love: _____

Agape love: _____

Which definition of love do you feel current society places the most emphasis on? _____

How does this compare to God and His priorities? _____

READ : MATTHEW 22:36-40

In v.40, what are the 2 commands Jesus says sum up the entire law and the prophets? _____

Scholars estimate that there are over 600 commands in the Jewish law.

How can these two commands possibly sum it all up?

The Greek term for love in both of those commands is _____ ?

What does it look like (personally or theoretically) to love unconditionally? Give at least 2 examples.

Do you find it easy or difficult to love others with unconditional love? Why or why not?

READ : 1 CORINTHIANS 13

Paul further unpacks the concept of agape love in 1 Cor. 13. He goes so far as to say that someone could be the most knowledgeable, the most spiritually gifted, the most sacrificial, and have the most incredible faith, but without love, none of it matters. That's pretty serious.

**Re-read chapter 13: 4-8 and replace the word love with the name of Jesus.
Then replace it with your own name.**

These verses describe the nature of Jesus but what do they describe about yourself? Which ring true?

Which are a struggle? _____

In detailing all these characteristics of agape love, Paul is giving us the kind of love that will last and will endure long past any spiritual gifts we may have. Look again at v.8-13.

Why will spiritual gifts eventually fade away?

How does this context enforce the concept that love is what will endure above and beyond any other gifts?

READ : 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1; JOHN 13:35; 1 JOHN 4:8

Why is agape love the greatest attribute?

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

*Father, thank you for loving us with unconditional love.
Help our love to grow, both for you and for others.
Work in our hearts so that eventually,
all of the attributes of agape love will be true in us.
And thank you for giving us grace until your work in us is complete.
Amen.*