

August 2023 Newsletter

From Heaven's Heart

“The Most Important Thing Jesus Said We Are To Do”

Someone asked Jesus, “What is the greatest commandment, or What is the most important thing God said we are to do, or How should you and I live our lives each day.”

Jesus said, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind. Then He added this. “Love others as much as you love yourself. What did He mean by this? Love others, all others as much as we love ourselves? Think about the things below and see if you agree.

Are we loyal, truthful, pray for them, forgive them, encourage, are generous, treat them with respect and honor, accept them, protect them from emotional, physical and spiritual harm, sacrifice for them, be patient with them. Is this not how we want others to treat us?

How we treat others, how we love others mattered because Jesus said it matters, and the reason it matters so much is this. If we desire to have strong, loving, close, caring, personal relationships with others; we must work very hard at loving them as much as we love ourselves. Think about your family, friends, co-workers. Should we not treat them this way?

Are we loyal, truthful, pray for them, forgive them, encourage, are generous, treat them with respect and honor, accept them, protect them from emotional, physical and spiritual harm, sacrifice for them, be patient with them?

I wish I could say, I'm always like this but I'm not. But this does not make it OK. I'm guessing sometimes you aren't either. But if we are doing, living the way Jesus asked that we live, His promise is we will receive all the benefits He promises. Love others as much as we love ourselves. It's not easy, is it? But most things that promise success are hard. So what do we do? We press on. We force ourselves to do the uncomfortable, the hard things, the unpleasant things. We press on. And as we do, we find success, encouragement, we are thankful we pressed on and did what is hard to do.

Do the things on this list above not define the way we would like everyone to treat us? We know they do and I admit, I don't always treat others this way and I am so, so sorry

if I have ever failed to treat you in all of these ways because you deserve to be treated this way because you are a child of God and my sisters or brothers in Christ. So right now, I am praying that God will give me the patience and wisdom to strengthen my relationship with you and all others so I can be more like the person Jesus said I am to be like.

Are we loyal, truthful, pray for them, forgive them, encourage, are generous, treat them with respect and honor, accept them, protect them from emotional, physical and spiritual harm, sacrifice for them, be patient with them.

Think about this. When someone is loyal, truthful, forgiving, generous, respects and honors and accepts and encourages me...I want to treat them the same way...don't you? So if you and I treat others this way, they remember this and maybe they will try to treat us the same way. This is a sign that they love the Lord with all their heart, soul and mind. This is a sign that we love the Lord more than anything.

As Christians, we are not supposed to wait on others to treat us this way before we start treating them the way Jesus commands us to treat them. He calls us to set the example first and others will notice and some will follow. And our prayer should be for God to soften their hearts in such a way they begin to notice their own need to change. Change! This is what His ministry was all about. Change! It makes us more like Him. Most of us have the information. God wants the information to reach our hearts and give birth to a transformation. Christ is in the transformation business. Are you ready?

My prayer is that He will continue to change me so that I don't need to say, "I love you," You will know I love you because of how I show it. Are you ready to stand out among others as someone who has been transformed by the love of Christ?

May God richly bless you today because of your love for Him and for others,

Pastor Steve

P.S. I have a special prayer for you to pray today. Would you pray for Tripp Brown's family today, for Bill and for Jean. They are carrying a heavy load with Brenda in Memory Care at the Oak's and his dad in long term care due to several strokes. Sometimes, when all we can do is pray, it is the only thing we need to do. God always hears our prayers and He always responds. Thank you.