

15 THE TWO DIMENSIONS OF LOVE

There is no greater power than love. It is the most sung and written of subject by poets. It is the supreme virtue. 1 Corinthians 13:13. Babies should have their mother's love. It gives them life and helps them grow healthy. Love is a child's nourishment and a young person's desire. Many have taken their own lives because of disappointments! They didn't love and they didn't feel loved. Love is an elderly person's support system.



LOVE WRITTEN IN BLOOD

1. Did God abandon the beings He created, in spite of their ingratitude? Luke 19:10. _____

2. What was the greatest example of God's love for man? 1 John 4:9-11. _____

3. How can we be Jesus' friends and show Him our love? John 15:14, 10; 14:15. _____

We cannot buy heaven with our deeds. Salvation is a gift of God (Galatians 2:16). However, salvation is the work of God "in man" through the Holy Spirit.

4. If we want to follow Jesus' example, what should we do to receive eternal salvation? Hebrews 5:8, 9. _____

5. What is the essence of the commandments? Matthew 22:37-40.

There are two dimensions to _____ . Love is the driving force to obey God.

Why did God give Moses two tables instead of one?

- On the first table are the first four commandments, which tell us how to love God. This is love in the first dimension.
- On the second table, we find the last six commandments, which are related to our neighbors. This is the second dimension of love.

LOVE IN THE FIRST DIMENSION

6. How do we show our love to God in reference to the first three commandments? Exodus 20:3-7.

- a) Putting God in first place; above our material interests, our vanity, personal honor, etc.
- b) Not worshiping Him as we think but as He has commanded, in spirit and truth.
- c) Treating His name with respect and reverence.

7. How do we show our love to God when we keep the Sabbath? Exodus 20:8-11.

By planning out our work week on the first day of the week so we can dedicate the seventh day entirely to God. We remember with gratitude God's creative work in two ways (Psalms 118:24):

Physically: enjoy peace on the day of rest by spending it in nature.

Spiritually: rejoice in the change Christ has brought about in us. It should not be a mere physical rest but a rest in which Christ, the Author and Lord of the Sabbath, becomes our spiritual rest through His work of justification (Hebrews 4:1, 2, 9, 10). Every Sabbath should be a foretaste of eternal life.

8. When does the Sabbath begin and end? What does the Bible call the sixth day?

- a) According to the Bible, a day starts the moment the sun sets. Leviticus 23:32; Nehemiah 13:19.
- b) Friday, the sixth day, is called the day of preparation. Mark 15:19.

Housewives also deserve a rest, so what should they do on the day of preparation? Exodus 16:23.
So that it is a real day of preparation, we should purchase everything that is needed, clean and tidy up the house, shower and change clothes, and set aside the clothes used on the Sabbath.

9. How does the Lord want us to keep what He calls “My Holy Day?” Isaiah 58:13, 14.

- a) Not doing our own _____, meaning not doing business transactions, or occupying ourselves with various tasks, and amusements, etc.
- b) Not traveling unless it is to serve the Lord.
- c) Not _____ about problems or materialistic concerns. Not reading the newspaper or listening to the news. It should really be a holy day set aside for God.
- d) We should not do things which make other people work for us (Exodus 20:10).

10. If we love God, what answers will we give to the following objections?

- a) Aren't all days the same? Exodus 20:11; Proverbs 16:25. God rested, sanctified and blessed a specific day.
- b) Most people keep Sunday. Can millions of people be wrong? Matthew 7:13, 14.
The point is not whether we are on the side of the majority or the minority, but whether we are on Jesus' side.
- c) My parents and grandparents kept Sunday, and I don't want to be different. Acts 17:30. God forgives all sins committed because of ignorance (James 4:17).

11. If we love Jesus, what will we do on His day? Luke 4:16. *Jesus was accustomed to* _____

- a) We should attend religious services to worship Him and hear His word.
- b) We can visit the sick and relieve their pain (Matthew 12:11, 12).
- c) We can talk to others about the good news of salvation.

HOW CAN WE LOVE IN THE SECOND DIMENSION?

12. The last six commandments refer to our neighbors. How do we express our love for them?

- a) The fifth commandment refers to the relationship between parents and their children (Ephesians 6:1-4).
- b) If I love my neighbor, can I kill him? Can I take up arms in a war and kill the masses? Can I be unfaithful to my partner? Can I say bad things about my neighbor, lie, steal, or covet what is his (Romans 13:9)?

13. If love is the foundation of our life, will it be difficult to keep God's law in these two dimensions? 1 John 4:20, 21; 5:2, 3. _____

14. What can we not forget if we are guided by love? James 1:27. _____

15. What can we not neglect if we truly love our neighbors? Mark 5:19; Psalms 16:12-14.

CONCLUSION

Loving makes us happy! It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).

Love is not only a feeling but a principle of life. Love makes us tolerant, forgiving, humble and faithful to God and our neighbors (1 Corinthians 13).

The result of living in these two dimensions every day, obeying God and His law, is the key to our success and happiness (Deuteronomy 28:1, 2).

Christ has done everything for me. What should I give Him?

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My decision: *I accept that my love for God and my neighbor are revealed by keeping the commandments of the Holy Law.* Yes No
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