

The Priority of Loving God

Matthew 22:34-40

As disciples of Jesus, it's not enough to just be busy with a bunch of Christian activities. We are actually called to have hearts that are oriented around love – love for God, love for one another, and love for our neighbors. If we want to have hearts that love in this way, we need to see what's inside our hearts. For all of us there is room for growth. And so over the next three weeks we are going to seek God concerning our hearts. We are going to ask Him to show us if there is anything that keeps us from loving Him, one another, and our neighbors. In this study we begin by talking about the priority of loving God.

Opening Discussion: What was one of the “great commandments” in your family growing up?

Read Matthew 22:34-40

1. What is the question posed to Jesus? And how does Jesus answer?
2. Why would this command be the greatest in the Law?
3. How comprehensively are we to love God?
4. What are some ways that one could evaluate how well they are obeying this command?
5. Steve said that the commandment to “love the Lord your God” uses language that points to the truth that God is OUR God because we are bound to Him by covenant. And so in the context of a covenant relationship, the command to love God is a command to RESPOND to His love (see 1 John 4:10; 19). What is the significance of our love being a response to God's love?

6. What is the difference between being “more committed” versus “loving God from the heart”?

Steve said:

The more we understand the love that God has shown us in Jesus, the more we will love Him in return. If you perceive the love of God to be something ordinary or mundane or something that God does out of obligation. . . or if you think that God really doesn't love you very well. . . then you won't really see much reason to love Him in return. But if you are absolutely smitten with the love of God as demonstrated through Christ, you'll hear this command, “Love the Lord your God,” and say, “Of course I will love my God because of His unfathomable love for me!”

7. How would you evaluate your personal perception of God's love for you?
8. If you find that you are coming up short with the command to love God, what can you do? In other words, how can you get to a place where you love God with all that you are?

Practicing the Rhythms of Rooted this Week



Daily Devotion: Use the daily email devotions that will be sent out each day as part of the 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting. You need to sign up to get the daily emails. You can find the sign-up link on Faith's website on the homepage.



Prayer: Take time to thank God for His love for you. Ask Him to reveal at deeper and deeper levels how much He loves you.