

## Why is this God's *primary* mission?

Deuteronomy 6:1-3, 10-18

What do we see in these verses? From a very high level, this is what I see. I see God knew that even as His people entered into His promise, received the many blessings of that promise, there was a very real probability that they would forget God. They would forget their past enslavement and how God delivered them from it. They would be tempted to worship the gods that everyone else was worshipping. They would reject He who is life abundant for the things He had given and eventually because of their rejection they would lose it all.

In verses 1-3 we see God's desire to bless us, our children, and our grandchildren with life abundant. God is for you. He is for your marriage. He is for your family. Yet so often as we experience His blessing, we fill our lives with more at the same time, pushing Him out of it. We eat and are satisfied. And if we're not careful we forget that all that we are, all that we have is from God. Our hearts become full of the things God has given us but increasingly empty of God.

### ::: Two Requests :::

**1. Talk to God today.** Maybe you need to journal to Him right here on this page. Go ahead, no one else is looking.

**2. Talk to someone about where you are with God and where you want to be.** Write down the first name of someone you can talk to this week about where you are and want to be with God.

 Missions Emphasis 2020  
**ON MISSION**  
LOVE GOD | LOVE OTHERS | SEEK HIS KINGDOM

## Where does the mission of God start?

The mission of God, following Jesus in your home, down the street, across town, or across the world will only begin and grow to the extent that we obey and cooperate with the work Jesus is doing in our lives.

To the extent that I have experienced the love of Christ in my life can I then turn around and give that love to others. If I have received only a little love, then I only have a little love to give. The same can be said of forgiveness, mercy, grace, compassion. If we lose sight of the great forgiveness we've received, then we only have a little to give.

 *For further study this week, see: Luke 7:36-50*

Do you remember a time when it became clear to you that you had nothing else to give? Your cup, your life, your ability was empty? To your wit's end? What area of life do you currently need God to fill you up?

We will never be the spouse, parent, child, or neighbor, serving, and caring for others as we are designed to do until God fills us. **The mission of God does not start out there, it starts in here.** So, what can we do?

## What is the *primary*, most *important mission* to which God calls us?

Matthew 22:36-38 | Deuteronomy 6:4-5

In Matthew 22, the Pharisees tested Jesus with a similar question. Did you catch the question?

**Q.** What is the greatest \_\_\_\_\_?

And how does Jesus respond?

**A.** \_\_\_\_\_ God.

Well, that doesn't seem or feel like love if we're commanded to do it, right? Love should be free and expressed on my terms, never commanded. I want to encourage us to reconsider our Western notions of love this morning. Why is it in almost every other area of our lives we claim decisions can be made? We get up and go to work even when we don't feel like it. We make decisions to better our health. We make decisions on how to spend our time. But love? Our society says we can't choose that. For love to be genuine it's not up to our minds, not up to our decisions, but it's left solely to our feelings.

That's not what the Bible teaches.  
That's not what Jesus is teaching in Matthew 22.

In the same way that a doctor orders her patient medicine to heal her, Jesus orders we love God because he knows a life given to loving God is where the fullness of life is experienced, where healing and wholeness are found.

This is not just a command to love God with empty words, rather with all your **heart**, all your **soul**, and all your **mind**.

**Q.** What was the Hebrew understanding of one's heart?

**Q.** What was the literal Hebrew word in place of "soul"?

**Q.** What was the Hebrew word in place of "strength"?

This is the primary mission of God in our lives. This is the primary calling. This is the greatest command. There is no mission out there in the world, if there is not first this mission at work in our lives, love God with all of your heart, soul (throat), and strength (muchness).

## How do we *center* our lives on this primary mission?

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

What do we do with the things we enjoy, the activities we like, or the people we care about? We talk about them. We spend time with them.

You and I were created to worship. It's not a matter of **IF** we will worship. That's not the question. The question is **WHAT** or **WHO** you will worship? God thus tells the Israelites to put these things in their heart.