

The greatest command

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. **Love the Lord your God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: '**Love your neighbor** as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

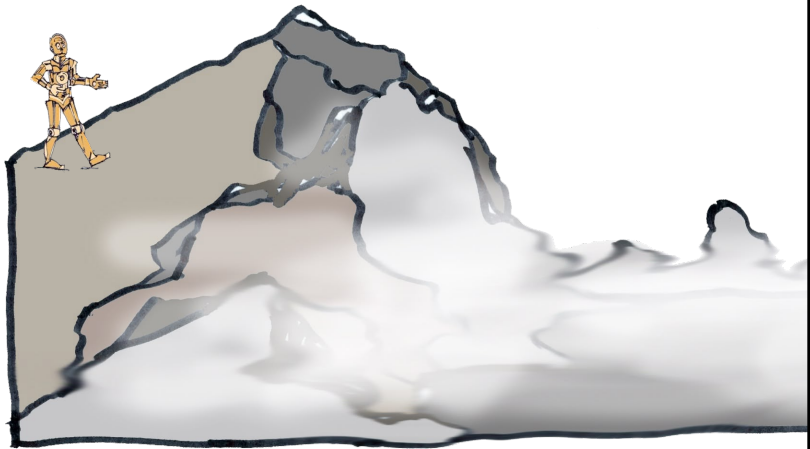
Mark 12:28-31

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Family Devotion and Sacrificial Love

2 Peter 1:3-7

ref.ly/2P1;niv



2

2 Peter 1:3-7

³ His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

3

The astounding historical reality:

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

The astounding promise:

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

Romans 8:32

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2 Peter 1:3-7

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⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, mutual affection and to mutual affection, love.

6

philadelphia

phileo + adelphos
love brother

the family-like devotion that should characterize the Christian community

7

"A new command I give you: **Love one another.** As I have loved you, so you must love one another. **By this everyone will know** that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13:34-35

8

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 and to self-control, perseverance;
 and to perseverance, godliness;
⁷ and to godliness, **mutual affection**
 and to mutual affection, love.

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9

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 and to perseverance, godliness;
⁷ and to godliness, mutual affection;
 and to mutual affection, **love.**

self-sacrificing attitude & action for the good of another

NOT: a response to the beauty or worth of another

RATHER: commitment to pursue what is best for them

10

1 John 4:7-11

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ **Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.**

⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, **since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.**

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John 15:9-17

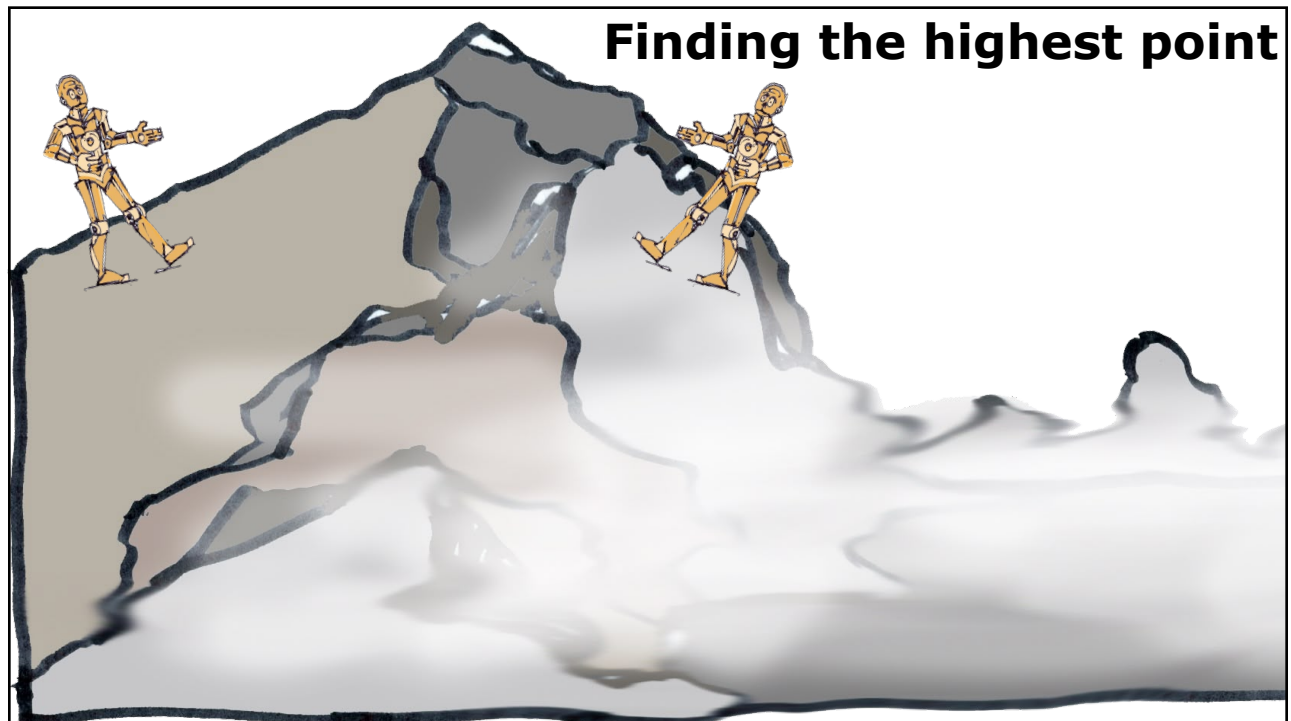
⁹ "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this **so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.** ¹² My command is this: **Love each other as I have loved you.** ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command.

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The Big Idea

The likeness & joy of God come as we grow
in family devotion for all Christians
and sacrificial love for all people

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**We can easily think...
Going UP is the way to find the highest point
But going DOWN is necessary to get there**



15

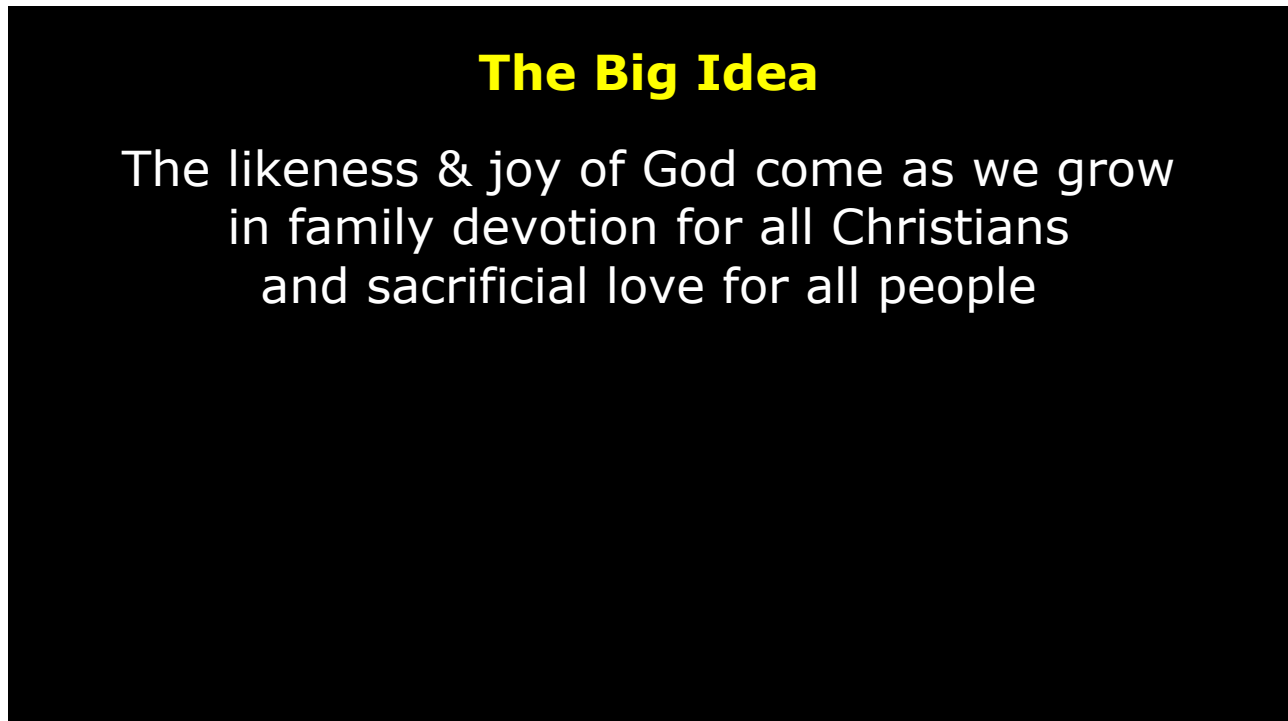
**We can easily think...
Joy is enduring happiness
So we pursue and protect happiness**



16



17



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Putting it into practice

- **Family devotion among Christians**
 - the family-like devotion that should characterize the Christian community
 - evidence of God actually being among us

19

"Accept one another, then, **just as Christ accepted you**, in order to bring praise to God." Romans 15:7

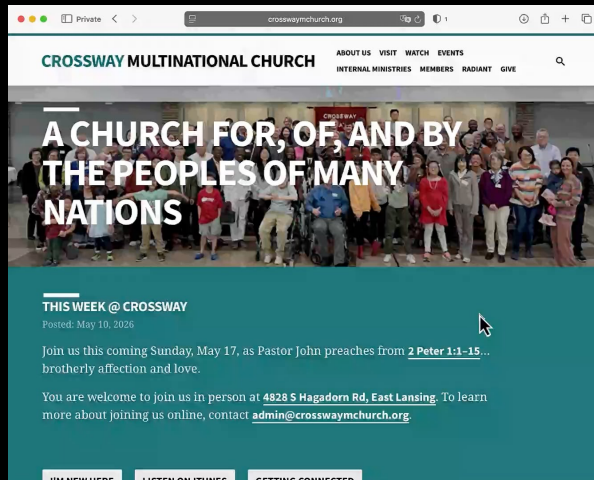
"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, **just as in Christ God forgave you.**" Ephesians 4:32

"Above all, **love each other deeply**, because love covers over a multitude of sins." 1 Peter 4:8

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Putting it into practice

- Family devotion among Christians
- know names



tiny.cc/CMCDir

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Putting it into practice

- Family devotion among Christians
 - pray (daily prayer app, prayer chain)
 - build friendships
 - care for people and be cared for by people
 - grow together
 - *Life Groups*
 - *Discipling friendships*

22

Do not forsake your friend or a friend of your family, and do not go to your relative's house when disaster strikes you—**better a neighbor nearby** than a relative far away.

Proverbs 27:10

23

What if I'm an introvert?

- Widow's 2 small coins
- The question is not how much social capacity you have
- The question is what you do with it

What if I'm struggling or down?

- Growing in being like God is life-giving
- The love of God flowing through us is the path to joy

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Putting it into practice

- **Sacrificial love for all people**
 - “Love each other as I have loved you.” John 15:12
 - God is the standard, not people
 - Sincerely **long** for the true good of others
 - Sincerely **pray** for the true good of others
 - God **sees** people, **cares for** people, and **takes action**
 - **Notice** others
 - **Care for** others
 - **Take action** for their good

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Putting it into practice

- **Challenge: Where should YOU be growing?**
 - By August 15...
 - I want to stop...
 - I want to be doing... **Pick 1 or 2...or 3**
 - I want to change...
 - I want to have done...
 - Pray daily
 - Scripture: memorize, meditate, ...
 - Action items for this month
 - Find someone to do periodic check-ins

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CROSSWAY

GROW

Home > Grow



By the Power
and Promises of God,
by August 15,
I will grow in...

*Self
Control*

crosswaymchurch.org/grow



27

By God's Power and Promises,
growing by August 15...

FAITH

GOODNESS KNOWLEDGE

SELF CONTROL

PERSEVERANCE

GODLINESS MUTUAL AFFECTION

LOVE

OTHER

Near the appropriate category...

- Add your name, or initials, or an anonymous mark

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*This is how God showed his love among us :
he sent his one and only son
into the world that we might live
through him.*

1 John 4:9

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“so that through [his promises] you may participate in the divine nature”

“Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” 1 John 4:8