

Family Devotion and Sacrificial Love

2 Peter 1:3-7



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

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

Mutual Affection = “philadelphia”

phileo (love) + adlephos (brother)

the family-like devotion that should characterize the Christian community

“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

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

⁷Dear 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.** ⁹This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Dear friends, **since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.**” 1 John 4:7-11

⁹“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

¹⁰If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this **so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.**

¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command.” John 15:9-17



We can easily think that joy is enduring happiness, so we pursue and protect happiness (the highest point by us).

But the way to the joy of God is to be like God, who is love, in family devotion for all Christians and sacrificial love for all people, which involves the sacrifice of going down (sacrificing for others)

Big Idea

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



Putting it into practice

Family devotion among Christians

the family-like devotion that should characterize the Christian community

it is evidence of God actually being among us

"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

Know names: tiny.cc/CMCDir

→ login ****, password ****

Pray (daily prayer app, prayer chain). Build friendships. Care for people and be cared for by people. Grow together

→ *Life Groups and Discipling friendships*

"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

What if I'm an introvert?

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

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

Challenge

By August 15...

I want to stop... / I want to be doing... / 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

<https://crosswaymchurch.org/grow>

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. Have you seen or experienced "family devotion" among Christians? What was it like?
2. What makes sacrificial love challenging? What makes it beautiful?
3. Have you seen or experienced the joy that comes in loving like God? What was it like?
4. What is an area where you are or will intentionally seek to grow as a Christian? What Scripture will help you focus on truth the supports this area? What actions will you take? Who will help you on the journey?

Conversation starters

Some people have described a "loneliness epidemic" where more people are more lonely, and it is affecting their health and well-being. What can people who are lonely do? Where do you find friendship and community?