

A Church with Purpose

Lesson 5- Christ's Commands to Us

INTRODUCTION

So far, we have studied much of what was shown by example- Christ's example, the first church's example, even the example of the Holy Spirit at work in the origin of the church. But Christ gave us more than examples- the scripture clearly gives us directives for living a life of purpose.

Today we will study the commands Christ gave us and how they should mold and shape the direction of the church. Remember, our purpose is found only in God's plan and design for us individually as Christians and corporately as the church body.

BIBLE STUDY

Let's start with what Jesus called the two greatest commands. Read Matthew 22:34-40. In your own words, summarize the two greatest commands.

1. _____

2. _____

Let's start with the command to love God with all you have. Read John 14:21. What will you do if you truly love God and how will God respond?

If "God so loved the world," (John 3:16) what do you think this scripture means for the person who obeys God? (See 1 John 4:7-12)

In 1 John 4:7-12, we also see that the second command, to love your neighbor, is really an extension of the first command. Read 2 John 5-6. Loving God means obeying him. What does it mean about our relationship with each other as believers? _____

Read John 3:16 and Romans 10:14. What does it mean about our responsibilities to those who are lost? _____

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The next command of Jesus expands upon his command to love your neighbor. It is what we commonly refer to as the golden rule. Read Matthew 7:12. What does this command mean for your every day life? What important statement did Jesus make about how this command relates to the rest of God's law?

The Golden Rule has often been incorrectly attributed to Confucius and something similar is found in many other religions as well. However, it is usually stated "Do not do unto others what they do not do unto you." Read Luke 6:27-31. How does man's standard of morality compare to the command that Jesus gave us?

Finally, we must once again visit the Great Commission, since it was Jesus' mission statement for those He left to build His church. Read Matthew 28:19-20. How do you think Christ's commands to love God, your neighbors, and even your enemies relates to the Great Commission? _____

Read Mark 16:15-16. How does the book of Mark expand on the Great Commission?

Read verses 17-18. How does it expand on His promise to be with us? _____

Christ gave us many more commands, and to cover them all would take many more studies. But the one theme we can uncover is this: whether it is God Himself, our enemies, our family in Christ, or the lost world, our responsibility is to love others as Christ loved us.

CONCLUSION

Read 1 Corinthians 13. This is the kind of love we are called to have. Unconditional, godly, perfect love. Our deeds for Christ will never affect others the way they should until our hearts are filled with the love of Christ. As a church, we must act in unity with the love of Christ, doing all we can to reach this lost world that God fervently desires to redeem from their sins.