

Decision To Love

2-5-17

Romans 13:8 (ESV)

The one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

This is a one-line statement revealing the purpose of God and the work of Christ with mankind!

Decision To Love: Context!

We have a new powerful relationship.

Romans 8:15 (ESV)

You have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

In Rom.12:2, With this new powerful relationship we are require to renew our minds.

The renewed mind!

Romans 13:8 (ESV)

The one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

A Christian is not a rule follower, but a person with a transformed heart who loves others thus fulfilling the Law, which fulfills the purpose of God.

The source of the ability to love as God intended comes from knowing “How much God loves us!”

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 is key to our ability to truly love others like God intended.

1 John 4:19 (ESV)

We love because he first loved us.

This means by fully understanding Christ's love for us, we have the ability to love. HE LOVED US FIRST! THUS WE LOVE GOD BACK! Our ability to love others is proportional to our understanding of how much God loves us!

The ability to love God gives us the ability to love others. Christians who cannot love are people who do not truly understand how much God loves them. In the gospel of Luke there is a situation of a sinful woman coming up to Jesus. As she knelt at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. Those observing thought this was a shameful act. However, Jesus honors her as one who loved much.

Luke 7:47 (ESV)

Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for **she loved much**. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.

When you are forgiven much you love much. Likewise when you are forgiven little you love little.

Hopefully we recognize that Jesus is identifying a heart attitude and not the quantity of sin. People who think they do not have a need for God's forgiveness have a hard time forgiving others and therefore loving others.

When we know God's love, we have the capacity to love others as God intended.

1 John 3:16 (ESV)

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

Thus we see that the foundational ability to live the Christian life is to love God! This all goes back to the fundamental teaching of Jesus! Who do you love?

Matthew 22:36–38 (ESV)

³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And he said to him, **“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.** ³⁸ This is the great and **“first”** commandment.”

Loving God is a prerequisite for loving people the way God intended as the next verse states.

Matthew 22:39 (ESV)

And a **second** is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

All the activity Christianity “hang” on these two commandments. You want to live the Christian life? **Make a Decision for Love!**

Matthew 22:40 (ESV)

On these two commandments **(hang)** all the Law and the Prophets.”

We participated in the Lord’s Supper this morning, remembering how much God loved us. Therefore with the power of the Holy Spirit and a renewed mind, we make a decision to love!

Maybe this is the first time you heard how much God loves you. If so, now knowing how much God loves you make a decision to love God back!

2Cor.5:21 (NASB)

He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Prophetic Team
Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current situation or impact the future.