

LOVE & ZEAL

GETTING STARTED

- ✓ Loving God **ALWAYS** involves loving **OTHERS**.
Matthew 22:36-40 Romans 13:10 Galatians 6:9-10 John 13:34-35 1 John 4:20-21

THE PASSAGE

Romans 12:10-12

LOVING & HONORING OTHERS

- (1) It starts with a **DECISION**.
Romans 12:10 Galatians 5:19-21
- (2) Real **HONORING** has a real **COST**.
John 13:3-5 & Philipians 2:3-11 Romans 12:16 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
- (3) The more **INSECURE** I am, the **HARDER** it becomes to honor others.
John 13:3-5
- (4) The reward for honoring others comes **LATER**.
1 Peter 5:4

MAINTAINING OUR SPIRITUAL ZEAL

- (1) Zeal doesn't always show up in our **EMOTIONS**.
It always shows up in our **ACTIONS**.
Romans 12:11 Micah 6:8 James 1:27
- (2) We get what we **PURSUE**.
Matthew 6:20-21 2 Timothy 2:22
- (3) When life gets tough, choose **HOPE**, **PATIENCE**, and **PRAYER**.
Romans 12:12 Titus 2:12-13 1 Peter 5:8-10 1 Thessalonians 5:17 & Luke 18:1-8

Food for Thought for the Week of June 11, 2017

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Larry reminded us of the importance of keeping our spiritual fervor when serving God, which is especially true when times get tough and people are difficult. How might the following verses motivate us when we come upon challenging times or challenging people as we serve God?

Colossians 3:12-14 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Matthew 5:43-48 *New International Version (NIV)*

Love for Enemies

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 9:9-12 *New International Version (NIV)*

The Calling of Matthew

⁹ As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

¹⁰ While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.

Think about one or two of the most difficult people you interact with. How might the verses above change how you view your relationship with them?

2. Zeal is a word in the Bible described as a good thing that can also go bad when used too much or incorrectly. What can we learn about appropriate zeal in the following verses?

2 Thessalonians 3:13 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹³ And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.

Galatians 6:9-10 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

1 Corinthians 15:58 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

3. Sometimes being "devoted to one another in love" means taking others under our wing. The apostle Paul is a great example of this as he consistently provides support, guidance and friendship to his younger friend Timothy. What principles of mentorship and friendship are seen in the following verses that could help us follow Paul's example?

Philippians 2:19-24 *New International Version (NIV)*

Timothy and Epaphroditus

¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. ²⁰ I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. ²¹ For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. ²³ I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. ²⁴ And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.

1 Timothy 4:12, 15-16 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹² Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

¹⁵ Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. ¹⁶ Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

1 Timothy 6:11-12 *New International Version (NIV)*

Final Charge to Timothy

¹¹ But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

1 Timothy 6:20-21 *New International Version (NIV)*

²⁰ Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, ²¹ which some have professed and in so doing have departed from the faith.

Grace be with you all.

Can you think of anyone who has taken you under their wing or tried to help you through tough times?