

"In the beginning  
was the Word,  
and the Word was  
with God, and the  
Word was God."  
—John 1:1

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## “What Matters Most in Life”

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**Life is all about love.** “No matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I’m bankrupt without love”. (1 Corinthians 13:3b). “Love means living the way God commanded us to live. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is this: Live a life of love.” (2 John 1:6).

**Love is the most important thing that He wants us to learn on earth.** It is in loving that we are most like Him: so love is the foundation of every command He has given us: “The whole Law can be summed up in this one command: ‘Love others as you love yourself.’”(Galatians 5:14)

**But learning to love unselfishly is not an easy task.** It runs counter to our self-centered nature just like when we were still babies. But as we go through life, He gave us a lifetime to learn love unselfishly.

**By unselfish love, it means that God is particularly concerned that we learn to love others in His family.** Peter tells us, “Show special love for God’s people.” (1Peter 2:17b) He also expresses this sentiment: “When we have the opportunity to help anyone, we should do it. But we should give special attention to those who are in the family of believers.” (Galatians 6:10)

**God insists that we give special love and attention to other believers because He wants His family to be known for its love more than anything else.** He said, “Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” (John 13:35). He also said that our love for each other is our greatest witness to the world.

**In order for us to practice loving each other, God trains us by giving us “family responsibilities”.** He gave us some tough work to do here on earth to prepare ourselves for an eternity of loving. He wants us to make the best use of our life through love.

**Love should be our top priority, primary objective, and greatest ambition.** It is not a good part of our life; it’s the most important part! The Bible says, “Let love be your greatest aim.” (1 Corinthians 14:1a). It’s not enough to say, “One of the things I want in life is to be loving,” as if it’s in your top ten list. Relationships must have priority in your life above everything else.

**Often we act as if relationships are something to be squeezed into our schedule.** That gives the impression that relationships are just a part of our lives along with many other tasks. But God says relationships are what life is all about. Four of the Ten Commandments deal with our relationship to God while the other six deal with our relationships with people. But all ten are about relationships! Later, Jesus summarized what matters most to God in two statements: love God and love people. He said, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart...All the other commandments and all the demand of the prophets are based on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:37-40).

**Relationships, not achievements or the acquisition of things, are what matters most in life.** Busyness is a great enemy of relationship. We become pre-occupied with making a living, doing our work, paying bills, and accomplishing goals as if these tasks are the points of life. They are not. **The point of life is learning to love – God and people.**

**Remember that love leaves a legacy.** How you treated other people, not your wealth or accomplishments, is the most enduring impact you can leave on earth. When life on earth is ending, people don't surround themselves with objects. What we want around us is people – people we love and have relationships with. In our final moments, we all realize that relationships are what life is all about. Wisdom is learning this truth sooner rather than later. Don't wait until you're on your deathbed to figure out that nothing matters more. As Mother Teresa said, **“It's not what you do, but how much love you put into it that matters.”** Love is the secret of a lasting heritage.

**Another reason God tells us to make love our top priority is that it is eternal.** When we transfer into eternity, we will leave everything else behind. *“These three things continue forever: Faith, Hope, and Love. And the greatest of these is love.”* (1 Corinthians 13:13). That's why the Bible says, *“The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”* (Galatians 5:6). Knowing this, when we wake up every morning, let us pray: “God, whether I get anything else done today, I want to make sure that I spend time loving you and loving other people – because that's what life is all about.”

**We will be evaluated on love in eternity.** One of the ways God measures spiritual maturities is by the quality of your relationships. In heaven, God won't say, “Tell me about your career, your bank account, and your hobbies.” Instead he will review how you treated other people, particularly those in need. (Matthew 25:34-46). Jesus said the way to love him is to love His family and care for their practical needs: *“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”* (Matthew 25:40)

**So while we are given another day to live, the best expression of love is time.** Time is our most precious gift because we only have a set amount of it. The importance of things can be measured by how much time we are willing to invest in them. The more time we give to something, the more we reveal its importance and value to us. When we give someone our time, we are giving them a portion of our life that we will never get back.

**Whenever we give our time, we are making a sacrifice; and sacrifice is the essence of love.** We can give without loving, but we cannot love without giving. Jesus taught us: *“Be full of love for others, following the example of Christ who loved you and gave Himself to God as a sacrifice to take away your sins.”* (Ephesians 5:2). **“God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son.”** (John 3:16).

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