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Love Wk 1 - The Greatest Thing in the World

Martinwood Ministries

The Greatest Thing in the World

Like I said last week, this is such a great time to celebrate Love, but actually every day of every week of every month is a great time to celebrate Love. Especially the Love Jesus Christ showed us. I've found obedience and Love are tied together; how obedience to our Father shows Love for Him; Love in the Supernatural, and how that Love translates into loving in the Natural, the way Jesus Loved.

John 15:13

**"Greater love has no one than this,
that one lay down his life for his
friends.**

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John 14:15

"If you love me, keep my commands."

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Today we're going to talk about the Greatest Thing in the World as written in Henry Drummond's book by the same title. Henry's book is one of the best books I've read on the subject. The book talks about how Paul interpreted Jesus Love for us and what that means in our everyday life.

1 Corinthians 13:13

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**So now faith, hope, and love abide,
these three; but the greatest of these
is love.**

Paul wrote those words over 2000 years ago and they are still valid today.
From faith comes hope.

Hebrews 11:1

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**Now faith is confidence in what we
hope for and assurance about what we
do not see.**

For instance we have to have faith in God as a prerequisite to hope. Hope in eternal life, hope in salvation. Love is born out of faith and hope. When we hope for something we develop a passion for it. We Love it into existence. We make "it" happen. We actually Love things into existence.

But Christ is Love. Christ is a person. He, just as Love is, will always be there for us. When we gave our lives to Christ, when we were saved, pulled from the fire, lead out of harm's way, we found unending, boundless Love through Christ. Boundless Love. Unconditional Love.

The Bible tells us whosoever trust in Him (whosoever Loves Him, because trust is the avenue to Love) will have everlasting life. They will live forever with Him, in Love.

The Greatest Thing in the World is found in the Gospels. They are filled with Love. The Gospels offer man a life. I like the saying "to never offer a man a thimbleful of gospel."

Do not offer merely joy, or merely peace, or merely rest or merely safety; tell them how Christ came to give man a more abundant life than they have, a life abundant in Love and therefore abundant in salvation for themselves.

Abundant Love is the key to abundant life. Loving abundantly is to live abundantly and to Love forever is to live forever. This is a supernatural law. To live for tomorrow is to Love for tomorrow. Those who don't have someone to Love them have a tendency to give up on life, to stop wanting to live. Even something that seems so small as loving a dog will keep them in life.

This is why Paul calls this, LOVE the *summum bonum*; the supreme good.

Paul Calls This The:

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Summum Bonum

The Supreme Good

For ages people have searched for the supreme good. They've spent their entire lives searching for the Supreme Good or summum bonum. You can only live this life once, so the sooner you find it, the sooner you'll live life abundantly.

All our lives we've been told the greatest thing in the religious world is faith. In the 13th chapter of 1 Corinthians Paul tells us "the greatest of these is Love."

I believe this is Christianity at its source. Love is the source of all Christianity because Jesus came to Love. He came to show us Love, show us how to Love and gave up His life as a sign of His Love for us. Paul immortalizes this Love in

1 Corinthians 13:1-2

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If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have Love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have Love, I am nothing.

If we change the word Love for Christ it sounds like this:

1 Corinthians 13:1-2

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If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have Christ, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have Christ, I am nothing.

Christ is Love and therefore the Greatest Thing in the World, the summum bonum is Love. Think about how Love relates to God's commandments.

If you Loved God you wouldn't have to be commanded to have no other Gods.

If you Loved your neighbor you wouldn't covet anything he has.

If you Loved your wife you wouldn't commit adultery

If you Loved, you wouldn't want to kill.

And so on. Love is the pivotal, it is the epitome, it is the summum bonum just like Paul said. When Jesus was asked by the Pharisees which of the commandments was the greatest he quoted only two commandments and both started with Love.

Matthew 22:37-40

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Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

AND Jesus ended by saying

Matthew 22:40

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All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Whew!! Is that great or what? Love. It's the greatest thing in the world. You have Love inside you, so share it.

Oscar Hammerstein II said:

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“A bell is not a bell till you ring it. A song is not a song till you sing it. Love in your heart isn't put there to stay. Love isn't Love till you give it away.”
So let's give some Love away this week and every week.

Over the next few weeks we'll be talking about Love and what it means to Love based upon what God asks us to do, so stay with us to get the full story.

Reach Out. This week reach out to someone who you might feel is lacking in Love. Maybe they are alone and without anyone. Reach out to them. Remember to not only “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” But also learn to “Love your neighbor as yourself.” By doing these two things we will spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and live a fuller more abundant life. **Share your Love with others**

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