

02 12 2022 Love Wk 2

Love - Wk 2 - Love Thyself as I Have Loved You

Martinwood Ministries

Love Thyself as I Have Loved You

This is our second in a series about Love. This is one of my favorite topics, especially when it has to do with our Love for God, but let's start with a prayer.

We've been talking about the Greatest Thing in the World, like all of the apostles talked about.....Love and how great Love is, and how great our God's Love is for us. In 1Corinthians chapter 13 Paul writes:

1 Corinthians 13:13

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

... But the greatest of these is Love. The Summum Bonum

Part of love is being obedient. It's hard to discuss love without obedience.

Obedience to our Lord
Obedience to the Word

As our relationship, and also in reference to Love, and the Love for our Lord grows so does our obedience to him. From last week, if you love your neighbor..... We know what obedience to him means because it is written in the Word

God is the Word. That's how we find out what he wants us to do and how to love ourselves. The better our relationship with our Lord, the more we'll

want to do for Him and love someone else per the last chapter, then the more we will love ourselves in the process, but where does it start?

Where does loving yourself start? It starts with you. It starts in the beginning. It starts with the Word. The Word of God. Let go to the first book of John, the very first verse.... In the beginning

John 1:1 - The Word Became Flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. _He was with God in the beginning.

He's foreshadowing Jesus. John is foreshadowing where Jesus comes from. He's telling us ahead of time that the Word will become flesh. Then he goes on to tell us how powerful God is.

John 1:3-5 - The Word Became Flesh

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. _In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Then if we drop down to John 1 verse 14 we watch as the Word takes on a new form.

John 1:14 - The Word Became Flesh

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

This is where we start with our relationship with God. It has to start with His Word, the Bible, because in the beginning was the Word. One other thing that was in the beginning. Turn to **Genesis chapter 1 verse 1**.

Genesis 1:1-3

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

So God's Spirit could have superseded the Word because the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. That same Spirit that said let there be light is the same spirit that is inside of you. So what are you doing with that same spirit?

You will spend eternity with this Spirit, so let's spend some time building that relationship between us and God. The better relationship you have with God the more you will want to be obedient to his Word. Because, according to John, the Word was the beginning.

The Word came to us to show us a new way not only to Love others, but to Love ourselves. To not have anxiety, fear, depression, but when these things came against us He gives us a place to go for relief.

And the Love you have for yourself and for your God will show through to other people. Like the Bible verse says Love your neighbor like yourself.

Galatians 5:14

For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Jesus did not come to make the law, but to fulfill the law. It was Moses who brought us the Law.

John 1:17

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ

Jesus tells us exactly what to do. He not only tells us in his preaching but also in his actions. If you want to fulfill the entire law according to what Jesus said, Love. Love your neighbor as yourself.

That same Spirit that was hovering over the waters in the beginning is inside of you, but are you living the Way and by the Word of God? Do you Love yourself as much as Jesus Loves you?

The only way to know, the only way to understand how to Love and how to Love the way Jesus Loved is to spend time in the Word. Spend time with the Lord, and you'll know how to Love yourself.

John eloquently puts it like this....

John 13:34-35

“A new commandment I give to you, that you Love one another, even as I have Loved you, that you also Love one another. “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have Love for one another.”

This is how you develop Love for yourself. You Love others. By loving others, you'll see how much your Love means to them, and you will love yourself even more. This is most easily achieved by loving others.

1 Corinthians 10:24

No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.

There are other things you can do to Love one's self.

Take care of yourself, physically and mentally. Eat the right foods. When you look good you feel good. Do the things that make you feel good so Christ's light shines through you and onto others.

Be obedient and do what God asks you to do. It's all right here in the Bible. Then when someone, or something comes against you, you'll know, through your Love that you are doing God's work and that you are doing the right thing.

There are some things in life you have to do. And sometimes people will come against you, but remember when you are obedient and you have

deep devotional love for your Father, you have love for others and plenty of love for yourself.

This week

- 1. Write down five things you love about yourself (God loves you for these things too).**
- 2. Relish these thoughts and realize how much you love yourself...It shows through to others.**
- 3. By doing these things we will spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and live a fuller more abundant life.**

Share your Love with others

God said

John 13:35

“By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have Love for one another.”

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for bringing us here today and showing us how your Word tells us how much we should Love ourselves too. When we love you and have a relationship with you, we find how to Love ourselves. We ask you forgive us any sins we knowingly or unknowingly have committed. Help us break through chains holding us back from Loving you, Loving our neighbors as ourselves and Loving ourselves too. Help get us to that place of Love. A place we can Love others so they too will have hope, happiness and a purpose in life; Your purpose. Thank you for blessing your ministry on 8th Avenue. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.