

TRUMPET CALL

WELCOME TO THE UPTOWN CHURCH!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please check your bulletin for more information.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

A pastoral prayer of invocation, adoration, thanksgiving, and illumination.

Psalm 67:1-2, 105:4

PASSING THE PEACE

Unity & Reconciliation

*Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:11-12;
1 Thessalonians 5:26; 1 Peter 5:14; Matthew 5:23-24, 18:15*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Corporate prayer of our covenantal commitment with our Heavenly Father through the Son of God, which encourages the confession of sin together.

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

Our Father,
who is in heaven,
holy is Your Name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.



Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against
us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.



For Yours is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
forever and ever.

Amen.



PSALMS, HYMNS & SPIRITUAL SONGS

Worshipping and praising the Lord in song together.

Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16

PROFESSION OF FAITH

His Steadfast Love Endures Forever

Psalm 136:1-9,26

PASTOR

Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!

CONGREGATION

For His steadfast love endures forever.



PASTOR

Oh, give thanks to the God of gods!

CONGREGATION

For His steadfast love endures forever.



PASTOR

Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords!

CONGREGATION

For His steadfast love endures forever.



PASTOR

To Him who alone does great wonders,

CONGREGATION

For His steadfast love endures forever.



PASTOR

To Him who by wisdom made the heavens,

CONGREGATION

For His steadfast love endures forever.



PASTOR

To Him who laid out the earth above the waters,

CONGREGATION

For His steadfast love endures forever.



PASTOR

To Him who made the great lights,

CONGREGATION

For His steadfast love endures forever.



PASTOR

The sun to rule over the day,

CONGREGATION

For His steadfast love endures forever.



PASTOR

The moon and stars to rule over the night,

CONGREGATION

For His steadfast love endures forever.



PASTOR

Oh, give thanks to the God of heaven!

CONGREGATION

For His steadfast love endures forever.



EVERYONE

Glory be to God the Father,
Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit,
God Almighty, Three in One!



PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Pastoral & Congregational Prayer

1 Timothy 2:1-6

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-4

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.



2 PETER 3:9

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.



1 JOHN 2:2

He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.



1 TIMOTHY 4:10

For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.



BLESSING & DISMISSAL OF THE CHILDREN

Call children to the altar for prayer and blessing.

Matthew 18:1-14, 19:13-14

PSALMS, HYMNS & SPIRITUAL SONGS

Worshipping and praising the Lord in song together.

Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16

DECLARATION OF THE LAW

The Greatest Commandment with a supplementary passage.

*Mark 12:29-31; Matthew 22:35-40; Luke 10:25-28;
John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:7-8,21; Romans 13:9-10; Galatians 5:14; James 2:8
Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Leviticus 19:18*

DECLARATION OF THE LAW

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

This is the first and great commandment.

Mark 12.29-30



DECLARATION OF THE LAW

And the second is like it:

‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Matthew 22:39-40



DECLARATION OF THE LAW

For the commandments,
“You shall not commit adultery,
You shall not murder, You shall not steal,
You shall not covet,” and any other
commandment, are summed up in this
word:

Romans 13:9-10



DECLARATION OF THE LAW

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Love does no wrong to a neighbor;
therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Romans 13:9-10





YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD

Understanding the Greatest Commandment, Part 4



GREATEST COMMANDMENT: THE LAW OF LOVE & LIBERTY

Distinct Laws in the Old Testament

- Shema — **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**
- Priestly Law — **Leviticus 19:18**

Christ Harmonizes these Laws in the NT

- Greatest Commandment (Royal Law) — **Mark 12.29-31; Matthew 22:35-40; Luke 10:25-28; John 13:34-35; Rom.13:9-10; Gal.5:14; James 2:8; 1 John 4:7-8,21**





GREATEST COMMANDMENT: EXPOSITION

Continue to break down its meaning line-by-line, word-by-word:

1. Hear, O Israel:
The Kingdom
2. The Lord our God, the Lord is one!
The Trinity
3. And you shall love the Lord your God...
The Law of Love



QUICK SUMMARY

The last few Sundays...

YOU SHALL LOVE: WHY IS LOVE LAW?

- God said, “Let us make mankind in Our image, after Our likeness.” (**Genesis 1:26**). God is love, and we are made in the image of Love (**1 John 4:8, 16**). Therefore, God created mankind after His likeness, to be in a true loving relationship with Him and with one another (**vv.27-28**).
- **But mankind fell into sin and death—separation from God—by disobedience to the Law given to Adam/Eve (**Romans 5:18-19**).**
- **Therefore, God commands us to love because we are designed to love.** The law of Christ aligns us with our created nature and destiny—image of God. When we don’t love, we sin.



YOU SHALL LOVE: WHY IS LOVE LAW?

- **The greatest command to ‘love God and love neighbour’ reveals our fallen condition.** We do not naturally love God above all or others as ourselves as we ought.
- **Without this law, we would remain in aimless, self-centered disorder** (the essence of sin). The greatest commandment keeps us on the narrow path and calls us back to union with reality (God) when we step off the path (sin):
The highest good is found in rightly ordered love.
- The law exposes our failures as sinners and guides us to God’s grace, where the Holy Spirit pours Christ’s love into our hearts (**Romans 5:5**).



YOU SHALL LOVE

LAW



YOU SHALL LOVE

LAW



LAW



EZEKIEL 36:26-27

“And I will give you a **new heart**, and a **new spirit** I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.”

- Two Promises: New Heart + New Spirit = Obedience to the Law



YOU SHALL LOVE

- **The Law of Christ, which is the true law of love and liberty, can only be kept through the Spirit of the living God.**
- Since God became man, He is remolding your heart of stone *right now* into the heart of flesh it was supposed to be.
- In other words, **God is renewing your will and the laws of human nature within you through His Holy Spirit.**



YOU SHALL LOVE

Romans 7:6 — “But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.”

2 Corinthians 3:2-3 — “You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.”





YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD

“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”

Mark 12:30



YOU SHALL KNOW THE LORD YOUR GOD

“On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

Matthew 7:21-23

YOU SHALL LOVE

- **The order is critical:** God is love. Therefore, you shall love.
- You must know God first to be like Him.
Then, you shall love neighbours like Him.
- You must love Love to love.
- **1 John 4:16** — “So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.”
- **1 John 4:19** — “We love because he first loved us.”



1 JOHN 5:1-5

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. **For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments.** And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?



YOU SHALL LOVE

LAW



LAW



YOU SHALL LOVE

YOU



YOU



YOU SHALL LOVE

- How do we keep the love of God first in our lives?
- First, we need to know what love is...



LET'S CONTINUE

What is love? What does it mean to love?
More specifically, what does it mean to love God?

YOU SHALL LOVE

What love is not...

- Love is not an emotion.
- Love is not affirmation.
- Love is not our current cultural definition of love.
I.e., “free love” or “love is love”

If we are enslaved to sin, then love is not love.

Love exists within the truth, not outside of it.



YOU SHALL LOVE

- In Hebrew:

Ahavah / Ahav (אָהַב / אֲהַבָּה)

- Root word means “to give”, which implies love is an offering or sacrifice (i.e., freewill offering).
- “You shall love the Lord your God...” (**Deuteronomy 6:5**)



YOU SHALL LOVE

- Another word for love in Hebrew:

Chesed (חסד)

- Often translated: “steadfast love,” “lovingkindness,” “mercy,” “loyalty”
- It refers to God’s faithful, undeserved mercy and commitment to His people.
- **Psalm 136** — “His *chesed* endures forever”



YOU SHALL LOVE

- The Greek combines these two (Ahavah + Chesed = Agape):

Agape (noun: ἀγάπη / verb: ἀγαπάω)

- Agape love refers to a **willful, faithful, self-giving love**



YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD

- **Love is of the will** (not uncontrollable, spontaneous emotional response).
- Holy Spirit > nature > will > love > intentions, thoughts, desires, etc.
- Love is *unifying motion* of the will:

“Love is to will the good of the other” — *Thomas Aquinas*

- Agape is love without thinking, without feeling, without seeing, without picking and choosing—love is being.



YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD


- The Law of Christ is for God's will to work in and through your life.
- Love becomes “natural law” through Christ, not external observances, but a holistic purity of the will becoming desire and behaviour through the Spirit (i.e., emptiness of want is filled full of love).
- Therefore, love is the highest good, the essence of law, and the purpose of our existence.
- **Love fulfills the purpose of freewill**



YOU SHALL AGAPE THE LORD YOUR GOD

- Agape love is a **willful, faithful, impartial, sacrificial “giving to” another** that seeks the other's good *over* emotion, reciprocity, or personal welfare.
- Agape love does not expect anything in return—it just does.
- Agape love is a **freewill offering—a sacrifice for the Lord.**





YOU SHALL SACRIFICE FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD

“And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us,
a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

Ephesians 5:2

YOU SHALL LOVE

LAW



LAW



YOU SHALL LOVE

LAW



LAW



YOU SHALL LOVE

YOU



YOU



YOU SHALL LOVE

Romans 8:3-4, 7-8 — “For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. **By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us,** who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.... For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”

- **Loving God and loving neighbour is submitting to the law of Christ—Christ Himself!**

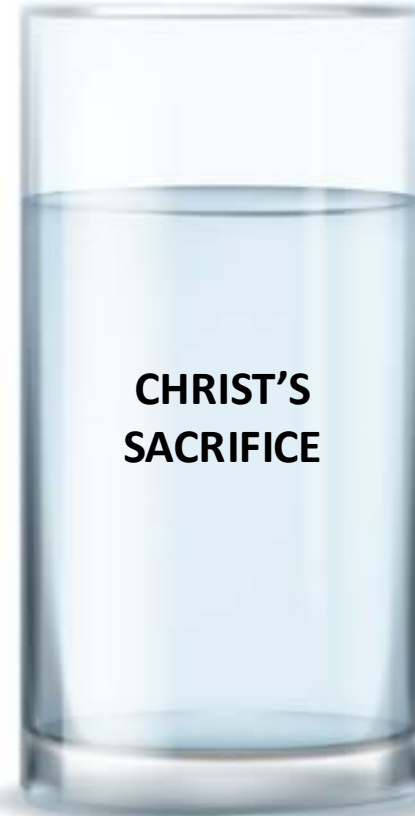


YOU SHALL LOVE

YOU + LAW



YOU + LAW



YOU SHALL LOVE

YOU + LAW



YOU + LAW



**LOVE OF
GOD**



YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD

God's initial, self-sacrificial love is the order of the gospel:

1 John 4:8 — “God is agape”

John 3:16 — “For God so loved [agape] the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

1 John 4:10 — “In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

- It is NOT: “I love my friends and family. Therefore, I love God.”
- You are called to love as Christ loved!!



YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD

God's gospel of self-sacrificial love must be lived in and through you:

- God sacrifices. Therefore, you shall sacrifice.
- You must sacrifice for God first in order to love Him. Then, once you love Him, you fulfill the law by loving neighbour like He does.
- You must love Love in order to love images of Love.



YOU SHALL LOVE

YOU + LAW



YOU + LAW



**LOVE OF
GOD**



YOU SHALL LOVE

YOU + LAW



YOU + LAW



YOU SHALL LOVE

YOU + LAW



YOU + LAW

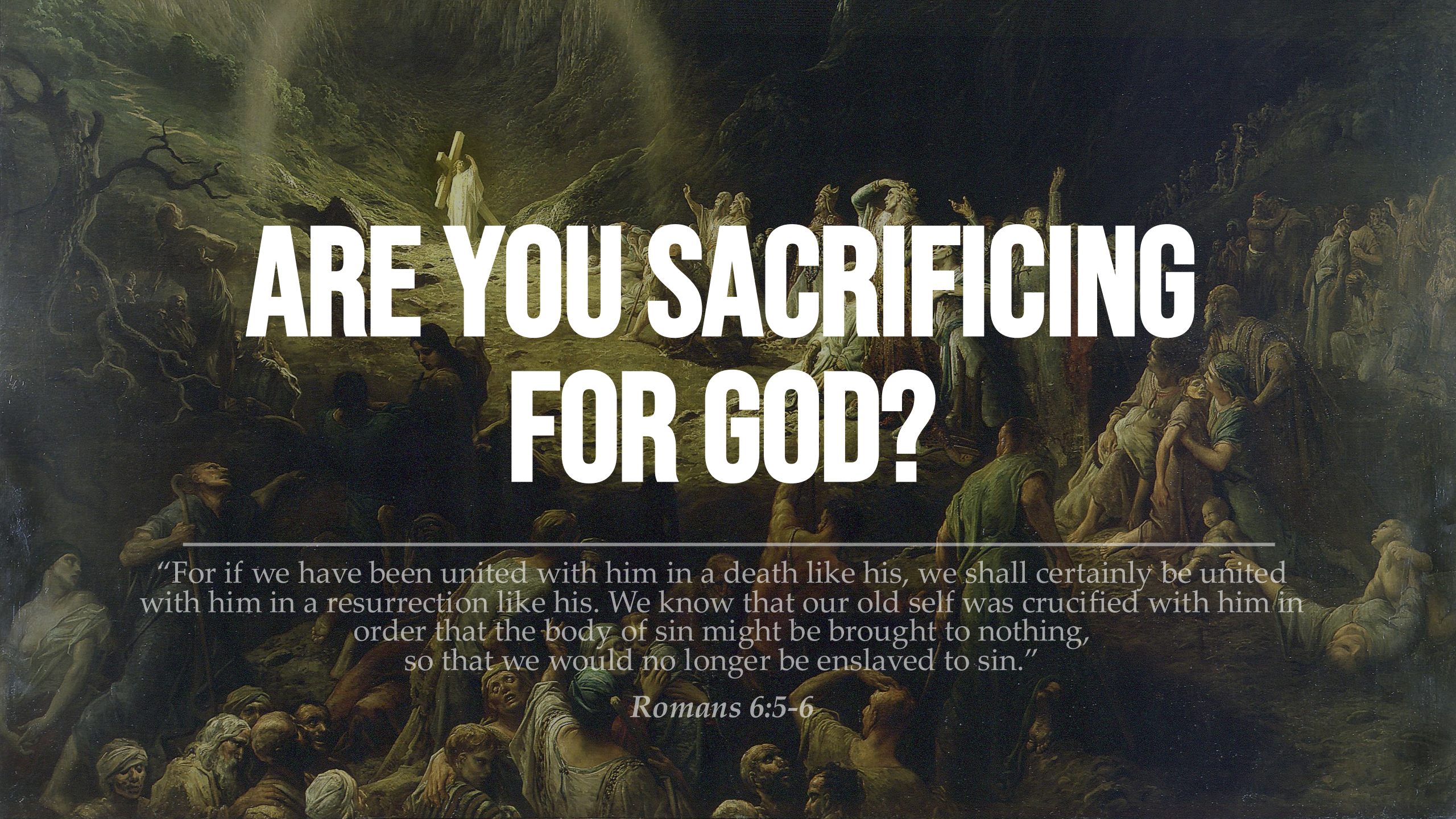


**LOVE
NEIGHBOUR**



HOW DO YOU APPLY THIS?

Critical Application



ARE YOU SACRIFICING FOR GOD?

“For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.”

Romans 6:5-6

ADMONITION

- **Is there anything in your heart that you do not want to let go of and give to God?** Perhaps, you won't and stubbornly refuse? Or, perhaps, you feel like you can't, so won't?
- **Beloved, beware of idolatry.**
- **Exhortation: I urge you. Repent!**

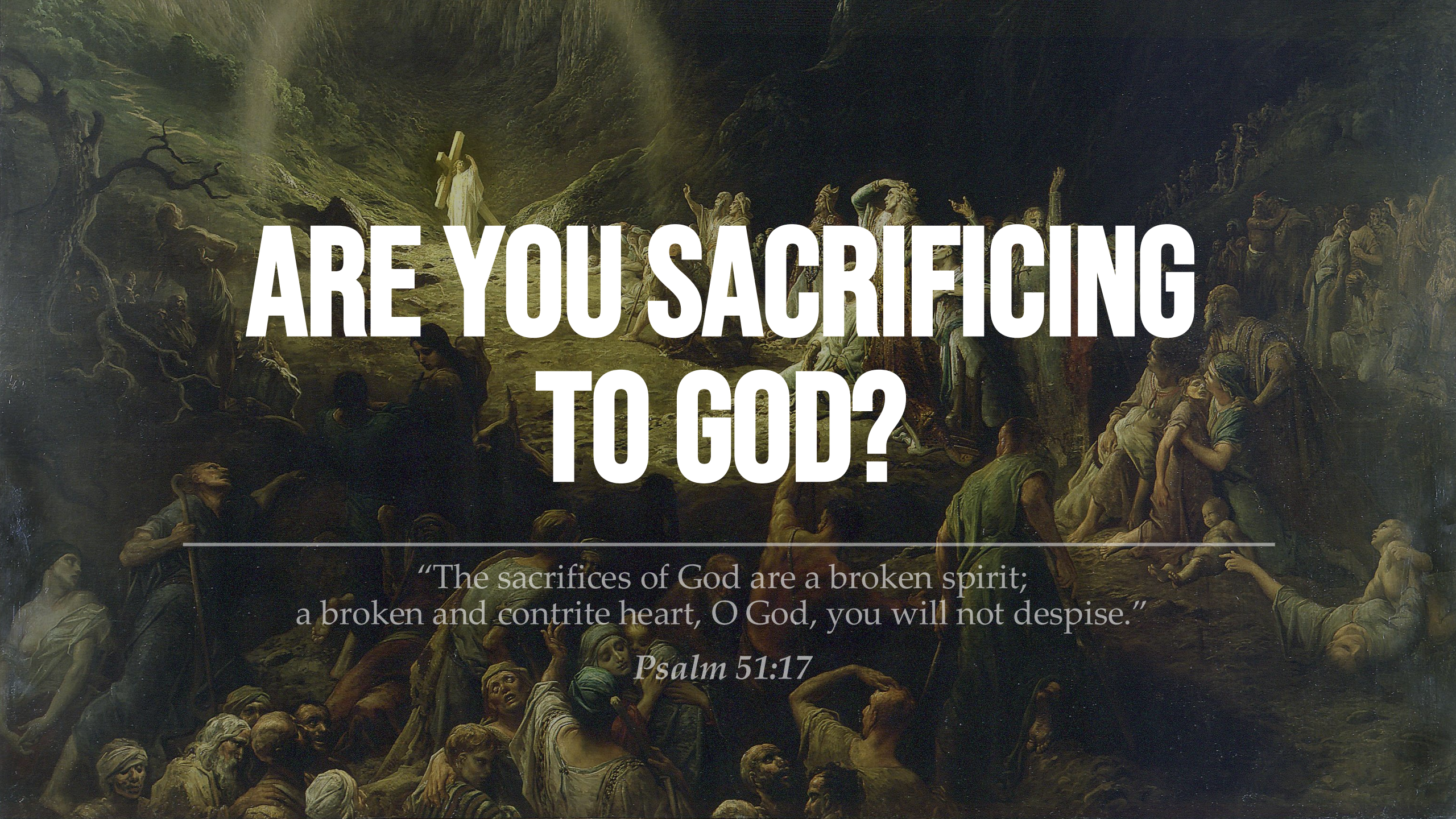




ARE YOU REPENTING TO GOD?

“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.”

Psalm 51:17



ARE YOU SACRIFICING TO GOD?

“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.”

Psalm 51:17

REFLECTION

1. Prayer life — prayer is a sacrifice: **Psalm 141:2; Revelation 5:8**

- Do you have a dedicated time set apart for devotional, intimate prayer with your Lord and Saviour each day?
- How often do you offer praise and thanksgivings to Him who saved you and renews you each day?
- Do you desire to “proclaim His excellencies” to others? (**1 Peter 2:5,9**)
Is praise on the tip of your tongue? (**Hebrews 13:15**)



REFLECTION

2. Home life — your household is a microcosm of the Church

- **Ephesians 5:25** — “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her...”
- Husbands, are you a giver or a taker? Do you tend to your wives’ needs first? Can she Christ in your conduct and lifestyle?
- Wives, when you give your time/energy, do you expect your husband to give it back to you in return? *Tit for tat, eye for eye, blow for blow...*
In everything you do, do unto God.





WHAT IS YOUR LOVE LANGUAGE WITH GOD?

“And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us,
a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

Ephesians 5:2

SUPPLICATION

Pastoral Prayer of Application.

CALL THE ELDERS

Prayer in the Isles — altar call, confession of sin, anointing of the sick, pastoral intercession, along with prayer, praise, and worship.

James 5:13-16; Psalm 103:2-5

JAMES 5:13-16

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.



PSALMS, HYMNS & SPIRITUAL SONGS

Worshipping and praising the Lord in song together.

Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16

BENEDICTION

Priestly Blessing

BENEDICTION

Now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And the love of God the Father,
And the communion of the Holy Spirit,
Be with you all this week.
Go in the peace that surpasses all understanding.
Amen.

2 Corinthians 13:14







