

Matthew Week 16 - MEMBERSHIP WEEKEND Oct 3, 2021

Intro: Stefan Duerksen, Associate Pastor

Membership Weekend! We have 65 people becoming members this weekend!

Membership Covenant:

I feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Southland Church family. In doing so I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

1. I will protect the unity of this church:
 - by respecting & honoring the other members
 - by refusing to gossip
 - by following the leaders
2. I will share in the responsibility of this church:
 - by serving & volunteering with my time, energy, skills & abilities
 - by giving financially
 - by praying for it
3. I will build committed relationships within this church:
 - by attending church regularly
 - by participating in a cell group for fellowship and growth
 - by praying with others and being accountable
4. I will uphold the testimony & reputation of this church:
 - by living a godly life of integrity
 - by honoring all government authorities & the law
 - by controlling my tongue and passions

Matthew Week 16

Our Mission statement: Love God, Love People, Be Discipled, Make Disciples – the GC and GC are both located at the end of Matthew... EXCITING!

A. The Great Command – Love God, Love People

Matthew 22:34-40 (ESV) But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

It is a popular phrase amongst Christian circles today to say things like, “Just love people” or, “Love God, love people – simple.”

And I agree with these statements! I do! The Great Command is supposed to DRIVE US INTO ACTION.

John 13:35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

But definitions matter. A growing trend we see in our culture today is the definitions of words being changed.

When you look at how our culture defines love. It often includes that we: 1. Don't push your beliefs on others – unless they are socially accepted; 2. Don't say things are sinful; 3. Whatever feels right for you is right; 4. If you don't accept "my truth" and "agree" with it – you don't love me.

Jesus addressed sin, called about religious leaders and their abuse of power & people, warned of coming judgement, instructed people that BELIEF was not enough – that OBEDIENCE mattered... AND he cried with friends, met people where they were at, comforted the broken and healed many people of their afflictions.

1 John 4:7-9 (ESV) Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Love is one of the most important themes BUT if God is love – GOD DEFINES LOVE NOT THE CULTURE

This is why we need to look to Scripture to define LOVE and what it means to LOVE GOD & LOVE PEOPLE.

B. Love God...

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (ESV) "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Two parts to Loving God:

1. With ALL your heart, soul, strength

What does it mean to LOVE GOD? Take a moment right now... what comes to your mind when you think of loving God? How do you love God? Going to church? worship? Bible reading? Prayer? YES!

Think about what you are passionate about in life? art? Exercise? Your family? Sports? Animals? How do you show your love for these things? Money? Time? Heart? Share with friends and family?

For example: does anyone in here know what my favorite animal is? It happens to be the BEST animal in the world. A cat. And everyone knows it!

What's my point? When you love something. Really love something or someone. It spills out of you everywhere.

Luke 22:44 (ESV) And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Hebrews 12:2 (ESV) looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Jesus loved us so much that he let his BLOOD be spilled out for us! He gave us everything we need to be reconciled to him. This is the PASSION OF THE CHRIST.

My question is... what are you spilling out for? Your heart will be wherever your treasure is.

When we discover Jesus as our greatest treasure - it becomes NATURAL to LOVE HIM WITH OUR ALL.

2. Means Obey God – Synonyms

Hear, O Israel – you see this phrase two verses earlier as well. The Hebrew word used here is, “sama (sha-ma)” which literally means, “to hear, listen to, obey.” The expectation on the hearers was that they were to OBEY whatever came next...

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Practically what does this look like?

- 1. All your heart, soul and strength.**
 - a. Meaning: the Lord is your greatest treasure and that is reflected in your passion, energy, use of resources... as we talked about in the first point.
- 2. Teach your kids**
 - a. Diligently – meaning. Make sure they understand what’s important. Teach them to love God with their whole lives.
- 3. Share with those at home**
 - a. When you have company over... friends... family.. guests...
 - b. As you show hospitality – share the One who gave it ALL for you with them
- 4. Share with those in your community**
 - a. When you are out in public... at the grocery store... at the beach?
 - b. I am not saying you have to talk to EVERY person about Jesus!
 - c. But... what about when you see someone in need? Someone that needs help? Are you available? Are you available to share Jesus with others?
- 5. DO this from AM – PM**
- 6. Your LOVE for God should be visible to you and those around you in what you DO**

OBEDIENCE is described as the act or definition of what it means to LOVE GOD.

1 John 5:1-3 (ESV) 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.

2 John 1:6 (ESV) And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.

1 John 2:3-6 (ESV) And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Acts 5:32 (ESV) And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

John 14:12 (ESV) “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

John 14:15 (ESV) “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

John 14:21 (ESV) Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

John 14:23-24 (ESV) Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.

Luke 6:46 (ESV) “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?

PRAYER John 14:26-27 (ESV) But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

PRAY – Lord... are there passions stealing our heart from you? Is there a step you want me to take this week?

Week 16: Passage of the Week: Matthew 22 & Deuteronomy 6:1-9

MAP Challenge Jesus’ call to those who follow him:

M - memorize – Matthew 22:37

A – application – ASK: 2 people that you know to honestly share with you what you are known for. What do they see as important to you, what do they see spills out of you. **SHARE:** with 2 people something that Jesus has or is doing for you.

P – pray – pray for the person you are reaching out to & pray the Lord will increase your heart for the lost.

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