

THE GREATEST



INTRODUCTION

Part 1 - The Primacy of Love

What really matters? What is important? What does it mean to be great? This week, Pastor Tim begins a new series titled, *The Greatest*. It explores what really matter to Jesus - *love* - and it will answer questions such as: *Why does love matter so much? What does it mean to love? How can we grow in our capacity to love?* Together, let's learn what it really means to love well.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are different ways in which people use the word, *love*? How would you define *love*?
2. Why do you think people are not more loving? Do you feel you *love well*? Explain your answer.
3. Read Matthew 22:35-40; 1 Corinthians 13:13; and James 2:8. Why do you think love is so important? Why is it the greatest command?
4. Read Ephesians 3:14-19. Why do you think being “filled up with the fullness of God” is so closely related to love?
5. Why are each of the elements in Ephesians 3:14-19 helpful if we are to grow in love:
 - Prayer -
 - Power -
 - Christ's presence -
 - Other people -
6. What are some things that get in the way of us loving others?
7. What, practically, can you do to grow in love?

APPLICATION

Jesus was asked, “*What is the greatest commandment?*” His response was to love the Lord God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and He then went on to say that we are also to love our neighbor as ourself. Every commandment in the Bible is related to love—either for God or for others.

Most of us are more selfish than we'd like to admit, and we often put our own needs above others. Is it possible that if we love well, we will experience life in a whole new way? Love is the secret to knowing God and experiencing Him in a deeper way, at a new level.

When Christ is at home within us, we become rooted and firmly established on the foundation of love—with Him and in relationship with others.

KEY VERSES

Matthew 22:35-40
Mark 12:28-31
Exodus 20:1-17
1 Corinthians 13:1, 13
James 2:8
Ephesians 1:18
Ephesians 3:14-19
John 15:5