

“Love is the measurement of, means to, and message of all God commands us as His children.”

PULPIT CURRICULUM

VERTICAL LIVING - Pt3
MATTHEW 22:37-40

1. REVIEW

Augustine said that our hearts are restless until they find their rest in God. What are some things you've chased after in life that have left you feeling restless or like there was something missing? _____

Read Proverbs 1:7 and Proverbs 19:2. Why are instruction and learning about God important first steps in our spiritual maturity? _____

Read Matthew 22:37-40 and 1 John 4:20. Why is it so important we transition as we grow from learning to loving - from seeing to savoring? What would happen over time if someone focused only on learning or only on doing? _____

2. ASSESS

Read John 13:35 and re-read 1 John 4:20. Both Jesus and John tell us that our love for God can be directly assessed by our love for others. Based on your love for others, how would you rate your love for God?

I'M A LIAR

I say I love God but I don't show much love for others.

STAGNANT

I show some love for others, but I mostly focus on my own growth and personal faith.

GROWING

While I still enjoy learning about God, I find myself pouring into others more and more.

Your sense that everything should be as **you** think it should be is a statement of your failure to grow in love. How are you guilty of this? In your home? In your marriage? At work? At church? _____

3. APPLY

“As Christians, we are not meant to huddle in little contrived circles of forced similarities that are not from God's Word but are products of sociological and cultural pressure.” How will you break out of your comfort zone this week for the sake of loving others the way God loves them? Think of the types of people Jesus associated with. Will you talk about God with a co-worker? Invite someone to dinner who has views different from your own? Show kindness to someone who is a “known sinner?” Work with your group to figure out who in your life needs to be shown God's love.

“When I'm chafed in church and consternated in Christian community, I'm being chastened by God's love to grow in community love, which increases my love for God Himself.” How will you grow in your love for the church this week? Do you need to criticize less? Apologize to someone? Serve more? Seek praise and approval less often? _____

- 1A) Vertical living **means loving God** with all I am. vv37-38
- 2A) Vertical living is **proven (promoted)** by horizontal loving. v39
- 3A) Vertical living **leads to everything that matters.** v40
- 4A) **Love2Live2Love.** 1 Corinthians 13:8. 13

Augustine: "You have made us for Yourself, and our heart is restless until it finds rest in You."

"What if knowing is a first thing, but over time the priority moves from head to heart, light to heat—from knowing to conscious loving?"

"To keep growing in Christ, move over time from learning to loving, from seeing to savoring who the Lord is."

"If you feel stuck in your love for God, maybe it is because you need to take a step forward in love for others."

"Love is the measurement of, means to and message of all God commands us as His children."

5 DAY READING PLAN

DAY 1

READ John 13:31-35

What I learned (observation/interpretation):

How I will respond (application):

DAY 2

READ 1 John 4:7-21

What I learned:

How I will respond:

DAY 3

READ 2 Peter 1:3-11

What I learned:

How I will respond:

DAY 4

READ 1 Peter 4:8-10

What I learned:

How I will respond:

DAY 5

READ Romans 13:8-10

What I learned:

How I will respond:

To learn more about studying the Bible, look for the "Essentials of Growing in Christ" class starting soon at your campus.