

# 40 Weeks of Purpose

Week 16

## What Matters Most

### POINT TO MEDITATE ABOUT FROM LAST WEEK:

*I was formed for God's Family.*

God's plan and His specific purpose for you has always been for you to be part of His family.

### VERSE TO MEMORIZE FROM LAST WEEK:

*"His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His own family" –  
Ephesians 1:5*

See. Told you so.

### QUESTION TO CONSIDER FROM LAST WEEK:

*How should I treat believers if they are members of my family?*

Family gets extended certain privileges. Our Brothers and Sisters should also.

- Life is all about Love
- 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:8 (NIV)
  - 18) Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.
- Because God is love, the most important lesson He wants us to learn is how to love
  - In loving, we are most like Him
- Galatians 5:14 (NLT)
  - 14) For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."
- God wants us to learn to love everyone, but He is particularly concerned that we love our Brothers and Sisters

- Why?
- It is our love for one another, not our doctrinal beliefs, that is our best witness to the world
- John 13:35 (MESSAGE)
  - 35) This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples—when they see the love you have for each other.”
- How does God train us to teach us how to love?
- By putting us in an Ecclesia with other believers
  - Loving these people won’t come “naturally”
  - You may not even feel an affinity to anyone here
- But, it’s God’s desire for you to learn how to love these people
- Regular, close fellowship is how you develop the skill of loving
  - Love can’t be learned in isolation
- You have to be around people... Irritating, imperfect, frustrating people... to learn how to love
- Through this Fellowship, we learn THREE important truths:
  - 1) Life without love is worthless
- 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:3 (MESSAGE)
  - 3) If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don’t love, I’ve gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I’m bankrupt without love.
- Love should be our top priority and our primary objective
- Being a loving person can’t just be one of the items on our “Top 10” list
  - It has to be the TOP item on our list
- Often we act as if relationships are something that we can squeeze into our schedule
  - We talk about *finding* time for our children
  - We talk about *making* time for our friends

- Relationships aren't just a part of our life
  - Relationships are what life is all about
- All TEN of the 10 Commandments deal with Relationships
  - 4 deal with our relationship to God
  - The other 6 deal with our relationships to one another
- Our classes on Worship dealt with learning to love God
  - Fellowship is all about learning to love one another
- If relationships are so important, why do we always cut them back
  - Busyness is the great enemy of relationships
- We cut back on the time, energy and attention that we give to relationships
- We become preoccupied with making a living, or doing our chores, paying bills and accomplishing goals that ignore the most important goal
- The whole point of life is learning to love

## 2) Love will last forever

- 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:13 (NLT)

13) There are three things that will endure—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

- Love leaves a legacy
- How you treated people, not your accomplishments is the enduring impact you leave
- Mother Theresa said, "It's not what you do, but how much love you put into it that matters"
- When you are on your deathbed, you don't call for your diplomas, awards, metals, financial statements, or stock certificates...
  - When life is ending, people don't surround themselves with objects
- They surround themselves with the people they love and have relationships with
- In our final days we all realize that that is what life is all about
  - Being wise is figuring it out long before you come to the end

### 3) You will be evaluated on your love

- Matthew 25:40 (AMP)

40) And the King will reply to them, Truly I tell you, in so far as you did it for one of the least of these My brethren, you did it for Me.

- One of the ways God measures our spiritual maturity is by the quality of our relationships

- Galatians 5:6 (NIV)

6) For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

- The best expression of Love is Time
- The importance of things can be measured in how much time we are willing to give to them
- The more time you give to something, the more you show how important it is to you
- If you want to know what a person's priorities are, then look at how they spend their time
- Time is the most precious gift because we only have a limited amount of it
  - You can make more money, but you can't make more time
- When you give someone your time, you are giving a portion of your life that you will never get back
- It's not enough to say that relationships are important to you, you have to prove it by investing your time in them
- Love is not what we do or provide for others, it is how much we give of our time
- When you give someone your time, you are making a sacrifice
  - Sacrifice is the essence of love
- You can give without loving, but you can't love without giving
- Love means giving up:
  - Yielding your preferences
  - Yielding your comfort

- Yielding your goals
- Yielding your security
- Yielding your money
- Yielding your energy
  - Yielding your time
- The best use of life is love
- The best expression of love is time
- The best time to love is now

**POINT TO MEDITATE ABOUT THIS WEEK:**

*Life is all about Love.*

**VERSE TO MEMORIZE THIS WEEK:**

*“The entire law is summed up in a single command: Love your neighbor as yourself” – Galatians 5:14*

**QUESTION TO CONSIDER THIS WEEK:**

*How can I ensure that relationships are my first priority?*