



When it comes to a life that is purpose driven, it makes a difference what the purpose is. You know (perhaps all too well!) someone who is driven by a purpose, but they lack true meaning. You have dedicated this portion of your life to the worthy objectives outlined in the Charter of the United Nations. Is this the most important thing in your life? How would your wife or colleague answer that question about you?

According to Dr. Rick Warren, “Love should not be your top priority, primary objective, and greatest ambition. Love is not a *good* part of your life; it’s the *most important* part. The Bible says, ‘Let love be your greatest aim’ (1 Corinthians 14:1). It’s not enough to say, ‘*One* of the things I want in life is to be loving,’ as if it’s in your top ten list. Relationships must have priority in your life above everything else. Why? Life without love is really worthless” (p. 124).

Jesus said, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.” All of the other commandments are based on these two. 1 Corinthians 13 is the classic chapter on biblical love. It is worth memorizing.

Warren concludes, “The best use of life is love. The best expression of love is time. The best time to love is now” (p. 128).

1. How does popular culture define “love”? What are some characteristics of this kind of love?
2. Read Romans 12:1-2. Popular culture, the “world,” is no longer to be the pattern for a Christian. What is the relationship between the “world,” a renewed mind, and a transformed life?
3. Read Romans 12:3-8. What is the main command in this passage (v. 3)? What are the implications of the “body” analogy?
4. Read Romans 12:9-13. Loving your friend demonstrates an understanding of the principles. What are some of the attributes of biblical love? Think of a personal example to illustrate this.
5. Read Romans 12:14-16. Loving your enemies tests the depth of your understanding of love. How does biblical love manifest itself toward the unlovable? Think of another personal example.
6. Read Romans 12:17-21. Justice demands fair compensation—an eye for an eye. What are the alternatives? How will you implement these principles today?

*“The entire law is summed up in a single command:
‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” (Galatians 5:14)*

ROMANS 12:1-21

1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.

2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

4 Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,

5 so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith.

7 If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach;

8 if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves.

11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord.

12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

13 Share with God's people who are in need. Practise hospitality.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.

18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

20 On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.