



THE THREE LOVES

The signs of Christian maturity

Part 02 - How to Treat Everyone

The following document is a rough copy of Pastor Drost's sermon notes

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Last week Pastor Chad started us on a three-week series called **The Three Loves**

The passage he read was **Matthew 22:34–40 & Mark 12:28-31**

The Pharisees gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer (an expert in law of Moses), asked Jesus a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God, the LORD is one; (As Pastor Chad explained last week: That “Lord” – small caps – is Yahweh – the only one true God!) ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and all your strength.’ (Our vertical relationship with God) This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ (Our horizontal relationship with others) On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets (All the Bible written to this point). There is no other commandment greater than these.”

To understand what Jesus is saying, think of a bicycle...

– **The back tire is your main tire**

- It supports the weight
- It is the driving force

For a Christian, our love for God is the foundation of all we do.

It is the driving force!

It is the **WHY** we do everything!

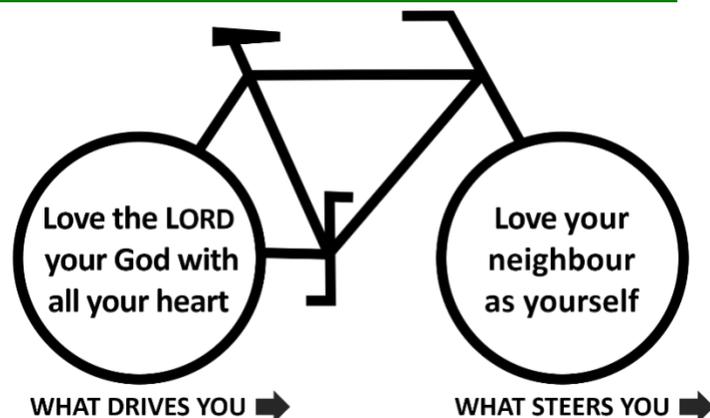


Illustration: Talking to some leaders and asking why we are to Evangelise or share Christ with others...
“People are going to hell”

- That doesn’t motivate me (Example: Police briefing)
- The Psalms are continually calling for justice and punishment of the wicked for the evil they do...

“May you blow them away like smoke— as wax melts before the fire, may the wicked perish before God.”
Psalm 68:2 (NIV)

There is this desire in humanity to see justice served for evil done!

So why doesn’t God just destroy all evil people and punish us all and just be done with it?

For God so loved the WORLD that He GAVE (Grace, mercy, forgiveness!) His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16 (NKJV)

- Why would a guy like Paul, raised as a Pharisee, a Jew of Jews, passionate for his people, preach the Gospel to pagan Greeks and heathen Romans (a people who had abused his people)?

Why would he suffer persecution, abuse, beatings, prison, to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles?

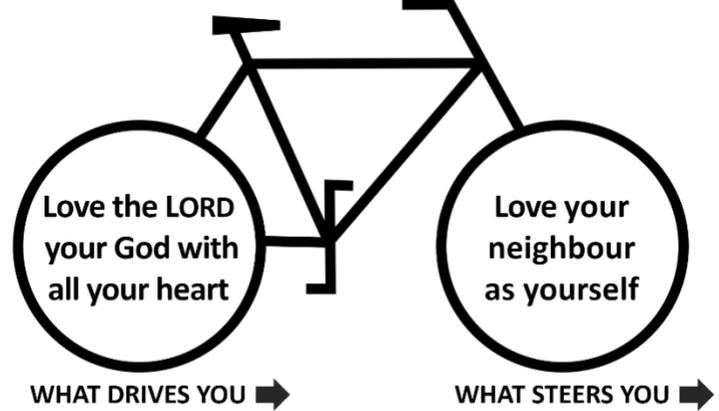
“For the love of Christ COMPELS us” 2 Corinthians 5:14a (NKJV)

– **The driving force is our love for God!**

- That's what compels us
- That's what motivates us

For a Christian, our love for God is the foundation of all we do.

Not fear! (Fear of hell! **God is more than a fire insurance plan!**)



"I love You, O LORD, my strength. (that's the foundation!) The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." Psalm 18:1–2 (NASB)

My strength, my rock, my salvation is based on my love for God!

Having the right LOVE for the right God (**The LORD your God**)

What SUSTAINS you? Who is your GOD? What DRIVES you? COMPELLS you?

Jesus said that the greatest commandment was...

"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and all your strength. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

"Is like it" – like it in value because **they are a set** together!

Just like you can't ride your bike on one tire, these two commandments are both fundamental:

Loving God and loving your neighbour

YOU CANNOT SEPARATE THEM!

The way I treat others is a direct reflection of my relationship with God.

My relationship with God is part of my relationship with others. Failure in one will cause failure with the other.

– **The driving force is our love for God!**

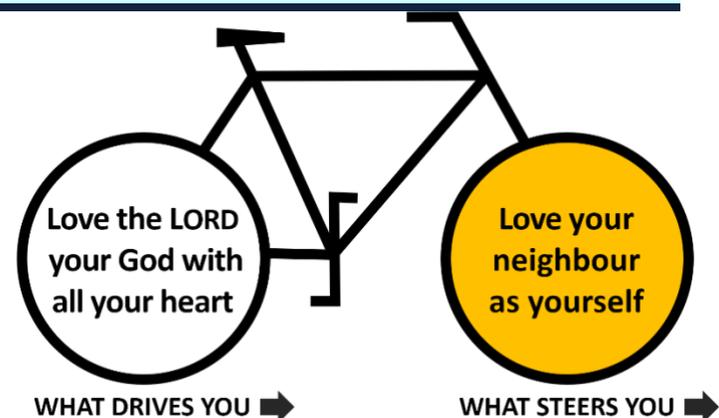
– **What STEERS my behaviour with others is **my COMMITMENT to love my neighbour as myself****

I call this the fundamental **RULE of ENGAGEMENT**

○ My favourite illustration to explain this is a railroad crossing:

- How I treat someone that's on a different path than I am (they have a different set of values, beliefs, ethics)
- How I treat someone's property, time, spouse, kids...

"Love your neighbour as yourself" (that's what steers my actions)



- **This commandment (Rule of engagement) must be understood as it is written:**

love your neighbor as yourself, or more clearly, “as if they were yourself.”

- It is often misquoted, “You shall love your neighbor as you love yourself” (That’s not what it says!)
That distorts the statement.

How much we love ourselves is not the standard by which Christ is calling us to love others. Rather, we are called to love our neighbour as we would want to be loved ourselves.

Jesus said it another way (Called the GOLDEN RULE)

“In everything, do unto others as you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.” Matthew 7:12

- That defines how I should treat the waiter at the restaurant (as I’d want to be treated if I were a waiter)
- How I should treat the taxi driver (as I would want to be treated if I drove a taxi)
- How I should use what’s not mine (as I would want someone to use my stuff)

If I treat someone else’s property with less care than I would if it were mine, then I am not living out the teaching of Christ

– Who is my neighbour?

- An expert in the law of Moses asked Jesus that question. He wanted to justify himself because the religious leaders at the time said that only those who were followers of the Jewish faith were neighbours. Therefore, you were under no obligation to love others (like Romans, Greeks, Samaritans).
- So, he asked Jesus, **“Who is my neighbour?”**

Jesus answered: “A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.’

So which of these three do you think was neighbour to him who fell among the thieves?” And he said, “He who showed mercy on him.” Then Jesus said to him, **“Go and do likewise.”** Luke 10:25–37 (NKJV)

So, who is my neighbour? Just those who attend SSC? Other Christians? What about Muslims? Hindus? Atheist? The foreigner? The homeless?

Everyone is my neighbour, created in God's image regardless of race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sexual orientation, age, mental or physical ability. And Christ calls us to love them and treat them with dignity, respect, kindness, and compassion as I would want someone to treat me!

In the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus taught us that "loving your neighbour" is more than an attitude I have, it involves actions.

He got involved, "he went to him" and helped him, bandaged him, put him on his donkey (sacrificed), "took him", gave him a place to stay. It cost him money (payed his hospital bill), and committed to future cost ("whatever more you spend, I will repay you").

Jesus says to us, "Go and do likewise."

What SUSTAINS you? Who is your GOD?

What DRIVES you? COMPELLS you?

What STEERS your actions with others?