

# FIRST THINGS FIRST

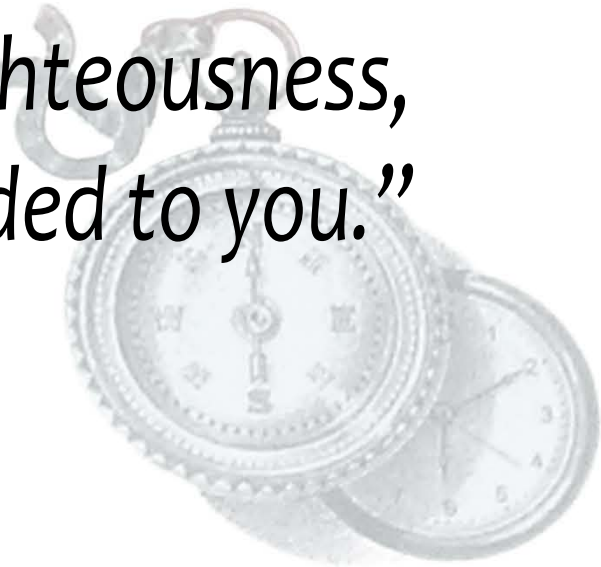


The Priority of Loving

“But **SEEK FIRST**

*the kingdom of God and His righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added to you.”*

*Matthew 6:33*



# LOVE

## The GREATEST of Three

Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—  
and the greatest of these is **LOVE**.

1 Corinthians 13:13 NLT

# LOVE: The GOD Connection

**GOD IS LOVE** ... *1 John 4:8 & 1 John 4:16*

## **GOD'S IS AGAPĒ**

His nature is to . . .

- Take pleasure in us
- Prize us above all things
- Never give up on us
- Never fail us



# LOVE: The RELATIONSHIP Connection

## Living in Love

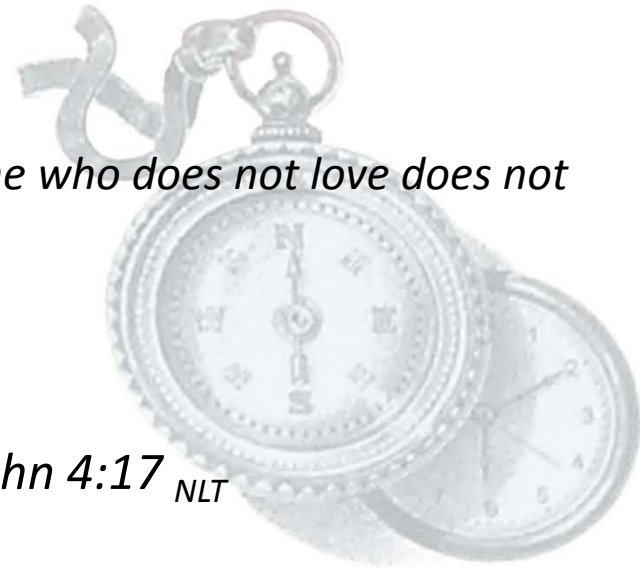
*“God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.” 1 John 4:16 NLT*

## Knowing God

*“...everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God.” 1 John 4:7 NASB*

## Our Love Grows

*“...as we live in God, our love grows more perfect.” 1 John 4:17 NLT*



# Redesigned to LOVE GOD

## We are **God's LOVE PRIORITY**

*"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners." Romans 5:8 NLT*

## God desires to be **OUR LOVE PRIORITY**

He's prepared us to *Love Him His Way*

- He's redesigned us as a **NEW CREATION** — *2 Corinthians 5:17*
- He poured His **LOVE** in our **HEARTS** — *Romans 5:5*
- His Holy Spirit **PRODUCES LOVE** in our lives — *Galatians 5:22-23*



# The Priority of LOVING GOD

FIRST & GREATEST COMMANDMENT

You must **LOVE the LORD** your God  
with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.

Matthew 22:37<sub>NLT</sub>

# The Priority of LOVING GOD

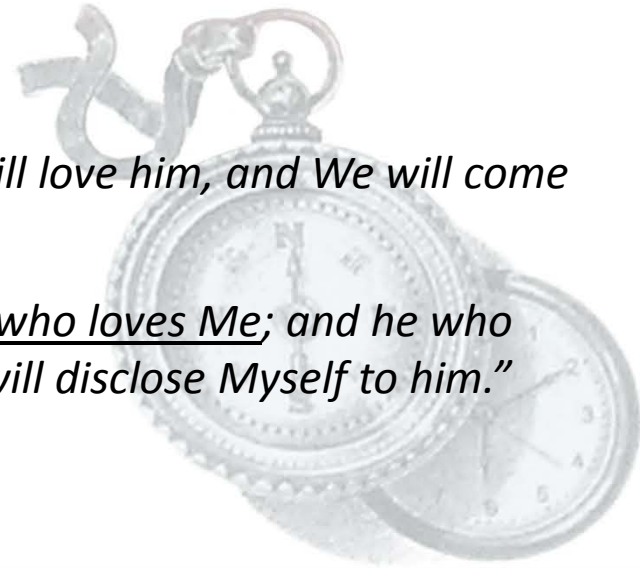
## A New Way to Obey — In the Spirit

*“Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit.” Romans 7:6 NLT*

## Love Our Motivation

*“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.” John 14:23 NLT*

*“He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.”  
John 14:21 NLT*





# The Priority of LOVING ONE ANOTHER

EQUALLY IMPORTANT COMMANDMENT

**LOVE your NEIGHBOR** as yourself.

Matthew 22:39<sub>NLT</sub>

# The Priority of Loving One Another

## LOVE as OUR FATHER LOVES

*“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” John 13:34-35 NLT*

## LOVE with AGAPĒ

- *Accepting One Another — Romans 15:7*
- *Bearing Burdens for One Another — Galatians 6:2*
- *Bearing with One Another — Colossians 3:13*
- *Forgiving One Another — Colossians 3:13*
- *Love what’s Difficult – 1 Corinthians 13:7*

