

Who Will You Love?!

Mark 12:28-34

Pastor Aaron Barnett

December 30, 2018

I. Remember, there is only one God, He stands alone, and “there is no other.”

“An idol is anything or anyone that captures our hearts, minds, and affections more than God.” ~ (Brad Bigney, Gospel Treason, pg 24)

“The essence of idolatry is the entertainment of thoughts about God that are unworthy of Him.” ~ (A.W. Tozer, Knowledge of the Holy, pg 3)

“There has to be something in our hearts that we make the most important thing in life, and to which we sacrifice other things to have or to keep it. If that something isn’t God, then it’s an idol.” ~ (Rico Tice, Honest Evangelism, pg 42)

The reason you love God little is because you have idols in your heart you love more.

II. Your love for God is dependent upon your Fear of God.

Deuteronomy 6:2 “that you may fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son’s son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long.”

Philippians 1:9 “And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment.”

What you do, How you live, How you talk, Who you talk to...Your life will reflect who or what you love.

Hypocrite: “a person who acts in contradiction to his or her stated beliefs or Feelings.”

James 2:17-19 “So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, ‘You have faith and I have works.’ Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that God is on; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!”

Don’t say you love God if you don’t love people.

III. Only when you love God more than anything or anyone else, WILL you be able to love other people more than yourself.

A. You'll see yourself as God sees you.

- a. **Colossians 2:13-14** "And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross." - alive & forgiven!
- b. **2 Corinthians 5:20** "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." - an ambassador for Christ, appealing to people!

B. You'll see other people as God sees them.

- a. **Luke 5:32** "I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." - Broken & sick people in need of help

The way you see people is filtered through what you worship. Do you see people's failures, annoyances, inconveniences, success, giftings, popularity, or do you see people's hearts, minds, gifts, sin, hope, or hopelessness?

The reason your ability to love people is so small is because you care less about them than yourself.

Resolve in 2019 to love God more and love people better. Here are some questions for you to answer:

1. Where do you need to stop pretending to love people and actually love them? "Let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth." **1 John 3:18**
2. Has someone ever pursued you by showing interest in you and your life? How did they show they cared about you? How did that impact you? How can you do that for someone else?
3. What keeps you from loving and caring about other people?
4. In what ways has Christ pursued you, been patient with you, or been kind to you?
5. Who are the "neighbors" in your life you need to start loving and caring for today, this week, this year? (Write their names down and share it with your closest friends)