

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

The Simple Life, Pt. 2

The three things God requires of us:

- **Mark 12:29-30**
- **Mark 12:31** (Mt. 22:40)
- **John 13:34** (+35)

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Mark 12:29-30, *Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’”*

***I John 4:18**, There is no fear in love. But **perfect love drives out** (displaces) **fear**
- Fear & love do not cohabitate

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Mark 12:31, *“And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”* (“On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”)

I John 4:19, We **love Him** because **He first loved us**.
We can also love ourselves **because** He first loved us

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***These two most important** requirements of life with God are **inseparable**.
Sequential in order of priority & **interdependent**
The second an **integral expression** of the first...
And **not optional**

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To **love others less** than ourselves would **value them less** than ourselves

Philippians 2:3-4, *Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*

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This remains true from the OT – **Leviticus 19:17-18**, *“You must not harbor hatred against your brother. Rebuke your neighbor directly, and you will not incur guilt because of him. Do not take revenge or bear a grudge against members of your community, but love your neighbor as yourself; I am Yahweh.”*

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Since God requires us to love others **as we love ourselves...**

How do you love yourself?

That is what you have to offer

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If you harbor resentment or bear a grudge **against yourself...**

Even self-condemnation

How does that impact things?

We can't give what we don't have

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Some of us judge ourselves more harshly than anyone else

While that doesn't devalue them

It **hinders our ability** to love them

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Matthew 5:3, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Does it disqualify us to be bankrupt before God?

NO! It liberates us

It also liberates us **toward others**

It relieves our anxieties about **who we're not**

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Though He is always giving His love already...

We are bankrupt **until we receive it**

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Being loved by God & **receiving His love** into **who we are...**

God judges us with Christ's love, and declares us **Not Guilty!**

And we are **empowered to love...**

Him, ourselves & other people

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Just as loving God, ourselves & others are interconnected...

So are judging ourselves & judging others

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Matthew 7:1-2 & 12, *"Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."* (**Matt. 6:14-15** - Forgiveness)

(**Judge & judgement** = Condemn & condemnation)

"Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."

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Romans 4:4-10, *Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.*

One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks. For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

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I Corinthians 11:31, For if we would **judge** ourselves, we would not be **judged**.

(**Judge & judged** = Discernment & condemnation)

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Things To Pray & Do:

Believe Him & receive His love for you

Thank Him & commit yourself to **love Him in return**

Tell Him you love Him **every day**

Ask Him to help you **define yourself** by His love

Ask Him to empower you **love yourself** in His love

Know that your freedom in love is part of **His reward**

Ask Him to **reveal His love** through you