

# PENINSULA CHRISTIAN F E L L O W S H I P

## *The Simple Life, Pt. 3*

### **Why does God love us?**

- Does His love have conditions? **NO**  
(He loves us all equally, ahead of time)
- Does His love have requirements? **Yes**  
(Only participating in it brings its benefits)
- What are the requirements?

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The three things God requires of us are:

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

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**Mark 12:29-31**, 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.’ 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.” **Matt. 22:40**)

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\*These **two most important** requirements of life with God are **inseparable, interdependent** parts of the same whole.

- We cannot have either without the other.
- It’s a package deal
- All or nothing

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Then Jesus said to them, **John 13:34** (+35) “A new commandment I give to you, **that you love one another; as I have loved you**, that you also love one another.”

And continued, “**By this** all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

“**love one another; as I have loved you.**”

**John 15:17**, “These things I command you, that you love one another.”

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**How does He love us?**

- 1) As fully God & fully human –  
He makes Himself fully dependent on the Father

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**John 5:19 & 6:38**, Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do”

“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”

**John 20:21**, Jesus said to them again, “**Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.**”

- Interdependent participants in the plural

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**Why does God love us?**

- To make His love known
- To offer His love to us
- So we can join Him in His love
- For the same reasons

- 1) We must **believe, receive & return** His love
- 2) We must **love ourselves** in His love for us,  
And give that love to **other people**
- 3) We must love His followers, just **as He loves us**

**John 14:15**, "If you love Me, keep My commandments."

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 These are **His commands** for those who would "**Receive**" His life

- Each one is prerequisite for the next
- Each one is added to & built on those before
- Each one fills out our expression of who He is

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**John 1:18**, No one has ever seen God. The One and Only Son — the One who is at the Father's side — He has revealed Him.

**John 10:30**, "I and the Father are one."

**John 17:23**, "I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me."

**John 20:21**, Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

**I John 4:17**, Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because **as He is, so are we** in this world.

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 Jesus is inviting us into who & what He willingly became...

- Submitted to & fully dependent on The Father
  - **As fully human**
- .....

## **How does He love us?**

- 2) As a humble human servant

**Matthew 20:28**, "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

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**Philippians 2:5-7**, In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

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**Romans 8:31-39**, Not only as recipients...

- But full **participant practitioners**

**Matthew 10:8**, "Freely you have received, freely give."

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 How would people **watching your life** say you serve in love?

How would people **watching our life** say we serve in love?

## 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 each other** as He does
- **Ask Him** to help you serve others in love as He does
- Ask Him to **reveal His love** through you