

FULLFILL THE LAW OF LOVE

The key to a profitable Christian life and a fruitful local church

Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. Matthew 22:36-40

Last year we accomplished many objectives for the Lord, both here and abroad, but there is still much more to be done. We have a biblical mandate to continually _____ ourselves as individual believers and as a local church, sending out and supporting missionaries for the same purpose. To do this we need to evangelize the lost, edify and equip the saved, and minister to our brothers and sisters in Christ so they will be encouraged to participate and press forward. Simplified, this is called *the _____ of the Lord*. In our society we are kept very busy with things happening around us at all times; it is easy to get caught up in the “work” and forget the very reason why we do what we do—_____. Christian, you are important to God. He saved you and called you to work because he loves you. Now he wants us to live a life demonstrating he is important to us—that we _____ him.

1. Our Vision for 2018

- a. Our real mission is to bring _____ to God – This is our individual purpose in life; this is the purpose of our church and everything we do – Ro. 15:1-9; 1 Cor. 8:3; 10:31; Eph. 3:21
- b. Fulfil the law of love - the key to a profitable Christian life and a fruitful local church
 - Mt. 22:36-40 – Love for God and your neighbor sum up the entire OT Law from Genesis to Deuteronomy – Romans 13:8-10.
 - James 2:8 – This is not some sappy, syrupy love as portrayed on TV or in the movies. It is true godly _____ that first comes from God. It is a love that’s charitable in nature as described in 1 Cor. 13:1-13.

2. How this vision breaks down practically in our daily lives

- a. Memorize Mt. 22:36-40 and James 2:8 and _____ them in your heart – Deut. 11:18; Ps. 1:2; 119:9-11, 16; Jer. 15:16; Col. 3:16
- b. Be familiar with the following scriptures: Deut. 5:10; 6:5; 7:9; 10:12, 19; 11:22; 30:16, 20; Prov. 3:27; Mt. 7:5; Jo. 13:34-35; 14:15; 15:12-17; Ro. 8:28; 13:8-10; 1 Cor. 8:1, 3; Gal. 5:6, 13-14, 22; 6:2; Eph. 5:2; Phil. 1:9-10; 1 Thess. 3:12-13; 4:9; 2 Thess. 3:5; 2 Ti. 1:7; Phm. 1:5-7; Ja.2:8; 1 Pe.4:8; 1 Jo. 3:11, 14, 23; 4:7-8, 11-12, 18-21; 5:2; 2 Jo. 1:5-6; Rev. 2:4-5

c. Implement the following measures:

*Cultivate your love relationship with God
Serve and obey God because you love him
Have a loving heart attitude toward others
Be gracious to others with your speech
Treat others the way you want to be treated
Seek to esteem others better than yourself
Pray for others, especially your enemies
Examine your motives
Seek peace and restoration in difficult circumstances
When giving admonition judge yourself first
Exercise humility in all situations
Understand the difference between the letter of the law and the spirit of the law
Have proper balance between your head knowledge and heart knowledge
When a need arises and you are able to meet it, do it
See others as valuable and invest in their well-being
Evangelize and make disciples based on love not mere duty*

**Add to this list throughout the year*

3. Keys to success for this year's vision

a. Avoid the main thing that will _____ you from fulfilling the law of love

- Living in the flesh

*Giving up too quickly when it comes to fixing things broken in life
Not trying or working harder about godly matters
Settling for mediocrity or failure in your Christian life
Not taking personal responsibility for your own words and actions
Not willing to change how you think or behave
Allowing anger or bitterness to determine your actions
Being self-centered instead of God-centered
Not asking God for wisdom in difficult circumstances
Not realizing how truly broken and poor you are without God
Preventing the fruit of the Spirit from increasing in your life*

b. Embrace the main thing that will _____ you to fulfill the law of love

- Walk in the Spirit

*Praying to God throughout each day in a meaningful personal way
Read your Bible daily
Believe what you read
_____ the word of God*