

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

God is Here, This is Amazing Grace, The Love of God, Amazing Love

WELCOME

One to Ten. Recite the 10 Commandments in order, one commandment per member.

WORD

MATTHEW 22:37-39

³⁷ And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the great and foremost commandment. ³⁹ The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

The Ten Commandments is for our good, our protection and our blessing. It honors God when people see us obey God's laws. What makes us different from the rest of the world is the ability to obey God because we love Him (Deuteronomy 4:6-8).

Jesus summarized the Ten Commandments with two greatest commandments: Love God, love others (Matthew 22:37-39). The first part is about your vertical relationship with God, and the rest is your horizontal relationship with others. Christianity is not complicated; it is founded in loving God, and the evidence is loving others (1 John 4:7-12).

LICENTIOUSNESS AND LEGALISM

Many do not understand how to relate to the Ten Commandments. The whole principle is love and grace, but if you are not careful, you either fall into licentiousness or legalism.

One end is legalism – you must obey God's commandments to go to heaven and must keep them to maintain your salvation. On the extreme end is licentiousness – you do not need to obey because you are already saved anyway (Jude 4).

The purpose of the Law is to make you accountable to God so that you will know your own condition; (Romans 3:19-20). The Pharisees obeyed the commandments externally but Jesus told them they will not go to heaven because their motive was to impress people.

The Law tells us that we need a Savior, and once we have Jesus we will be justified by faith (Galatians 3:24, 26).

THE GRACE OF GOD

The grace of God brings salvation through Jesus (Titus 2:11-12). It transforms your heart and your desire. It is the grace of God that enables you to overcome the power and bondages of sin.

You were once in bondage to sin, then you came to follow Jesus and experienced freedom, joy, peace. However, it does not mean you will never go back to sin. If you are not careful you will find yourself going back to your old lifestyle.

The key to living a life of grace is loving God (John 14:15). Our relationship is not based on rules, but on love. If you love Jesus, you will obey Him.

THE LOVE OF GOD COMPELS LOVE FOR OTHERS

If you love God, you obey Him. In obedience, you also love others because you are after their welfare and you think of pleasing God.

Loving God is the sum of all moral obligations. Loving one another is the sum of all moral ethics (Romans 13:10). But we have abused and misused love. Do not use love as an excuse to commit sin.

The key to love others is to treat them the way you want them to treat you (Matthew 7:12). If you would like others to treat you well, do the same to them.

TRUE LOVE IS SELFLESS

Why do you love your spouse and your children? Would you still love them if they are no longer the kind of person you loved?

WORD (cont'd)

Many times we love people only for self-interest; we love them based on our expectations. We love our spouse for their physical appearance or their achievements. We love our children because they are cute, smart and they perform well in school. This is actually imposing pressures on them to live up to your expectations. The truth is we do not love them; we just love ourselves.

True love is selfless. It is loving even your enemies and being good to those who are not nice to you (Luke 6:27-28). We could not love others because we do not love God. It only shows that we love ourselves more than we love God. If we love God we will love others.

Let it be our prayer and practice that all followers of Christ will live in such a loving way, that the only

explanation of the people around us is because we know and love God.

The ability to be nice to people who are not nice to us is due to the security we have in the love of our Heavenly Father (Matthew 7:11-12). When you are nice to people, don't expect that they will naturally be nice to you. Your expectations must be from God alone. Don't be afraid if they will abuse you, or hurt you. Do your part to love them; God will take care of your deepest longing.

Until you experience the love of God, you will find it difficult to love others. The secret of love is that God loved us first (1 John 4:19). If you need to experience the love of God, come to Jesus. No one can satisfy our need for true love but Jesus alone.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

- 1. The Greatest Commandments.** How did Jesus sum up the Ten Commandments in Matthew 22:37-39? What is the relationship between the first part and the second part of the Commandments?
- 2. True Love.** How do you practice loving God and others? How does it impact your life?
- 3. Selflessly.** Starting this week, in what ways would you treat others selflessly and lovingly? What will be your motivation for doing it?

WORKS

THE "GOLDEN RULE"

Understand carefully the different interpretation of the world from Jesus' commands in Matthew 7:12. Reflect and discuss it in your break out groups.

Do to others as they do to you	Reactive
Do not do to others as you do not want them to do to you	Passive
Do to others as you want them to do to you	Proactive (JESUS)

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- New Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends