



SCHMA ISRAEL
THE FIRST AND GREATEST COMMANDMENT

The Way to Freedom - Loving God

Matthew 22:37

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your thinking".

Mark 12:30

... "with all your strength"

We will look at four dimensions of love with each other and see how they form the totality of love. In this way, God's love is fully revealed and shows us why God expects us to return His love in the same way.

I am referring to Jesus' statement in:

Matthew 22:38.
... this is the first and greatest commandment.

It is not only the *first*, but also the *greatest* commandment. This commandment has the greatest influence on God's heart, our heart, and not least on the people we serve.

Jesus quotes a passage from Genesis 6:5 and we will study this text in more detail. The point I want to emphasize is that Jesus gives his own comment on this passage, which He takes from Moses. Of course, I am aware that he was the one who gave Moses this text, but he added something that was not mentioned by Moses.

Deuteronomy 6:5
... And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and all your strength.

Jesus' addition to the Moses text was:

"It is the first commandment; it is the greatest commandment"

This commentary of Jesus gives us an extraordinary insight into what should be released throughout history through the body of Jesus, his church, his children.

Namely, what we are obliged to do as individual believers, as God's family, is that we take those two terms "*first or first*" and "*the greatest*" seriously and thereby open to us previously unimagined graceful God, for our personal lives, as well as for the people of our generation.

I would also like to challenge you for your ministry but also in your personal life that instead of classifying these words as random statements, you classify these two statements of the commandment to love God supplemented by Jesus, as qualification and quantification to fulfill this commandment and to give it the place it deserves - namely as the first and greatest and it according to Jesus' words to be observed and honored.

God creates an inheritance for the Son

This commandment reflects God's ultimate purpose of God's thought of discipleship and shows us His eternal goal. Before the foundation of the world, God had this plan in his heart. Before the world was created, he had one eternal plan... that's the why... behind his idea of creation, *to create a family for himself.*

- *He created heaven and earth. This commandment tells us why God did what He did.*
- *We know what He did on the cross, He atoned for all our guilt. This verse tells us why atonement.*
- *This commandment explains to us the reason for creation and the atonement of our guilt.*

In short... God wanted to create a family for Himself. He wanted to raise up children, sons and daughters who are faithful to Him, love Him, are loyal to Him, and He wanted to create a bride equal to His Son, an eternal companion at His side.

The Father promised His Son an inheritance. This heritage is people who love him completely voluntarily and will always be with him, that is, will belong to him. We must be aware that Jesus' inheritance includes more than being King of Kings, more than the whole earth with everything that goes with it, real estate, more than government more than the fact that He rules over the nations.

He owns the whole earth and all that is present in the whole universe. We see God's brilliance in the fact that in Revelation 5:7 a book will be given to the Son—the book is the title deed of all of God's creation, including the earth.

Revelation 5:7

... and it (the Lamb) came and took the book from the right of him who sat on the throne.

His heritage is nations, he owns the whole country, he rules, and rules all nations. To inherit the nations and to possess them completely means more than that. It means that He will possess the heart of the people of all the nations of the earth. The father promised his son the following:

Psalms 2:8

Ask of me, and I will give you the Gentile peoples as an inheritance and the ends of the earth as your property.

This is total control over the government. I will give you the ends of the earth, including the people. He will have them in total, that is the idea we are talking about here.

Forced obedience versus voluntary love

inheritance includes the obligatory obedience of all creation.

Philippians 2,9-11

9 Wherefore, God has also exalted him beyond measure, and given him a name which is above all names, 10 that in the name of Jesus all the knees of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth may bow, 11 and all tongues confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, for the glory of God, of the father.

Paul gives us a glimpse of what Isaiah 45:23 really says in these verses.

Isaiah 43:23

I swore to myself, justice has come out of my mouth, a word that is not taken back: Yes, every knee and every tongue should swear to me!

Paul describes how the Father promised the Son in the Old Testament that every knee would bend, every tongue would confess... so every man, every demon, every Satan will have to bend his knees in obedience and confess that Jesus is Lord.

Every unbeliever will receive his eternal judgment, accept it without contradiction, and obediently go there as determined by Jesus to their judge. That is, binding obedience of all creation, but there is more, and God wants more than just obligatory obedience for His Son.

He wants voluntary love. For the king's inheritance is the obedience of all nations, but the voluntary love of the people of the nations for him is the heir of the bridegroom.

- *As king, the heritage is ... Every knee will bend, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.*
- *As a groom, he also receives an inheritance ... Every person in his kingdom will love him with all his heart, soul, whole mind and all his strength. You will love him, not automated, not forced, not programmed, no, it will be voluntary love.*

- *Of their own free will, people will choose to love God. Because they have known God in their hearts and have been faithful to His commandments in obedience throughout their mortal lives. And they could increasingly be transformed into the image of Jesus.*

The nucleus of the groom's inheritance is different from the legacy of the king of kings. The groom's heirs are people who have chosen to love him as much as he loves them. Voluntary, this must be emphasized, because there are only volunteers in heaven, but also in hell.

We will now look together at what it means to love God as much as He loves us. Namely with all my heart, with all your soul, with all your thinking and with all your strength ... just as Jesus postulated.

Love God as God loves

The reason that the Father wants us humans to love Him as Jesus demands in His commandment is simply because He loves us with this completeness. God wants us to love Him as He loves us. With an undivided heart ... he is a jealous god... he will not and will not share our love with other "gods," whatever the other gods may be.

Exodus 34:14

For thou shalt not worship any other God. For the LORD, whose name is "The Jealous", is a jealous God.

That's the most remarkable thing I can imagine, ... it is biblical and beyond our human understanding that God is jealous of us showing all our love for Him. At the same time, however, he has taken all precautions so that we can love him according to his ideas.

Ephesians 3:19.

... and to recognize the love of Christ, which nevertheless transcends all knowledge, so that you may be filled to the fullest of God. (i.e., to all the fullness that God gives)

This verse states that this love cannot be managed outside of human understanding without the help of the Holy Spirit.

Even with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can only have a vague understanding of how much God loves us... and yet he will fill us with the full measure of God's love.

It is simply beyond our imagination to grasp this divine intensity. What it means, God loves us with all his thinking, how huge God's thinking is. He loves us with all his heart, with all his soul, with all his emotions and ultimately with all his strength ... and now imagine God's power.

Now that we are confronted with the sheer overwhelming intensity of God's love, it dawns on us that it takes God's love to love God.

The core idea of the Bible is that it takes the love of God to love God and God knows that.

Romans 5:5

... but hope does not allow it to be shamed; for the love of God is poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, he empowers us to love Him, for the Holy Spirit has poured out divine love into our hearts. This opens to us the different dimensions of divine love, which we look at together below.

GROWTH DIMENSIONS

I think it is easier to grasp the love of God when I divide it into four dimensions, and so we understand how his love flows to us, fills us up, is reflected to God and flows again in a never-ending flow to flow from us as if from an overflowing vessel to our neighbors and thus reach them with God's love. To the four dimensions or effects of God's love on us and our environment:

- 1. The revelation that God loves me. The Holy Spirit reveals me, that God loves me as His Word says.*
- 2. This allows me to love God as He loves me, because I reflect His love back to Him as with a mirror.*
- 3. God's love for me makes me love for myself. The lack of love in my life is more than compensated by God's love.*

4. *I will begin to love what God loves, which is people.*

Jesus' commandment contains a second demand, we find it then the first.

Matthew 22:39

And the second is comparable to him: You are to love your neighbor as yourself.

Many “*born-again*” Christians cannot love their neighbor as themselves, because they have never been loved themselves, they do not love themselves. This is the love deficit they themselves suffer from. In the end, we will only be able to love our neighbor in the quality with which we ourselves are loved. Because we must be aware that we can only pass on what we have ourselves.

Love your neighbor is completely opposite to our human idea of love and who deserves our love. However, I think we should learn to see in our neighbors what God sees in them. His children, who do not yet know him, so our potential brothers and sisters only that they are still strangers to us.

When we love ourselves as God loves us, the flow of love is unlimited. Love flows and when we pass it on, we are always filled with something new from it. So, from this abundance with which we are loved, we can bestow God's love on our neighbors.

In summary, we see:

- *First, the Holy Spirit gives us the revelation that God loves us and gives us the knowledge of the intensity with which He does so, then He awakens in us the burning desire to reciprocate God's love by reflecting His love for Him. God's love flow to us is never ending.*
- *We direct this continuous influx of His love back to the origin ... so to God's heart. So it happens that our love filled hearts love with God's love in an eternal cycle emanating from Him. God's love completely fills us up and flows back to Him... this is behind the mystery "it takes God's love to love God".*
- *Filled with His love, we can eventually love our neighbors as we love ourselves, with the love of God that flows from us to them. This is the supernatural love cycle starting from God to us, back to Him and continuing to touch our neighbors. This is the work of the Holy Spirit on the children of God to pour*

out His love into our hearts... which then affects this fourfold way.

Immediately before his crucifixion, Jesus was with his disciples and prayed "*the High Priestly Prayer.*" Jesus prays in twenty-six verses for his disciples and from verse 15 for us his saints, who come to faith through the testimony of the disciples.

John 17:24-26

24 Father, I will that where I am, those who thou hast given me may also be with me, that they may see my glory which thou hast given me; for you loved me before the foundation of the world. 25 Righteous Father, the world does not know you; but I know you, and they know that you have sent me. 26 And I have proclaimed unto them your name, and I shall proclaim it, that the love with which thou love me may be in them, and I may be in them.

There is no comparable passage in the Bible where Jesus prays so explicitly for his bride as he does in high priestly prayer. As in a crescendo, prayer ends with the words

John 17:26.

And I have proclaimed your name to them, and I will proclaim it, so that the love with which you love me may be in them and I may be in them.

In this prayer, Jesus explains to us why we can love Him in the same quality as He loves us. I have proclaimed your name to them, I have exemplified to them as you are for this reason, so that they may understand that the love with which you love me is also in them, just as I am in them.

Jesus needs here in this prayer the symbolism of the temple namely

<i>I in you</i>	<i>We</i>	-	<i>the forecourt</i>
<i>I, Jesus</i>	<i>Jesus</i>	-	<i>the sanctuary</i>
<i>You Father in Me</i>	<i>the Father</i>	-	<i>the Holy of Holies</i>

If this is not a beautiful picture, it reflects to us how God imagines himself to dwell in us and to work through us. For the Bible says

1. Corinthians 6:19

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who dwells within you,

whom you have from God, and that you do not belong to yourselves?

This is only conceivable by the grace of God. Here Jesus describes the way God works and makes His love manifest in us... in fact, just as the Father loves Jesus, he loves each one of his children.

A bride in love

In all nations and throughout the history of the Church, the Holy Spirit has chosen and educated a bride. Before Jesus' return, his courtship will increase exponentially and reach all walks of life worldwide. Dear Ones, I am talking about people who do not yet know God.

Revelation 19:1-10

And after this I heard a loud voice of a great crowd in heaven saying: Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and glory and power belong to the Lord our God! 2 For his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great whore, who corrupted the earth with her fornication, and has demanded the blood of his servants from her hand! 3 And again they said: Hallelujah! And their smoke rises from eternity to eternity. 4 And the 24 elders, and the four living beings fell, and worshipped God, who sat on the throne, and said, Amen! Hallelujah! 5 And a voice came forth from the throne, saying, praise our God, all his servants, and ye fear him, both the small and the great! 6 And I heard something like the voice of a great crowd, and like the sound of many waters, and like the sound of strong thunder, which said: Hallelujah! For the Lord God Almighty has taken up the reign of the king! 7 Let us be joyful and rejoice and give him the glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his wife has got ready. 8 And it was given unto her to clothe herself in fine canvas, pure and shiny; for the fine canvas is the righteousness of the saints. 9 And he said unto me, write: Blessed are those who are called to the wedding feast of the Lamb! And he said to me, these are the true words of God! 10 And I fell before his feet to worship him. And he said to me, "Look at yourself, don't do it! I am your fellow servant and that of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy."

Revelation 19 says that the wedding of the Lamb has come. Here we are talking about the bride of Jesus that the Holy Spirit prepared on earth. A worthy bride, prepared for the worthy son, what a great plan. The father has a worthy son, and he creates for him, through the bride recruiter the Holy Spirit, a worthy bride.

The generation experiencing the Lord's return will, through the supernatural work of the Holy Ghost, completely restore the first commandment, which will become the top priority on their agenda. We will see that the first commandment will

increasingly be the theme as the hour of Jesus' return approaches.

I am aware that the goal of life "*loving God*" is not yet the number one item on the agenda in many areas of the body of Jesus. But that will change before the Lord returns, because and here I am sure the Holy Ghost will make the first commandment in the world the main agenda. If only because the fulfillment of the high priestly prayer depends exclusively on how we are recognized ... not by signs and wonders, but by the world will recognize us by the love we have for one another and by the unity in love that Jesus was sent by the Father, it will know that we are loved by the Father, no matter how he loves Jesus.

John 13:35

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another.

John 17:28

... I in them and you in me, so that they may come to perfect unity, and that the world may know that you have sent me and love them as you love me.

1. John 2,5

but he who keeps his word, in whom the love of God has truly become perfect. This is how we know that we are in Him.

The decision to love God must mature in our hearts that we will ultimately decide... yes, Lord from the hour on I will keep the first and greatest commandment ... namely, the first commandment is to become my life and I will direct all my thoughts, speeches and actions according to this intention, from now until I stand before the Lord.

That can be days, weeks, years, even decades. Maybe a little longer than we expect, but it may also be that it's a bit shorter than we would like. In any case, our lifespan determines the time we have left to put Jesus' greatest and first commandment into our lives and thereby prove to God how much we love Him.

It is important to be aware that the only reason we were not recalled to heaven immediately after our conversion in the first fire of infatuation with Jesus is that we can prove to God through our life how much we love Him. And please remember, the years of life that are still ahead of us is the only way we still must prove to him how much we love him.

Once we stand in front of him, it will be the first question Jesus asks us, how much did you love me. I think then everyone wants to be able to offer God his fruit of love matured through the years of life. Matured by all that we have done or not done in obedience to His Word.

The Bible teaches us that God will one day dry our tears. I believe these will also be tears of remorse when we realize the price, we have given just to waste our time on a short-term, ephemeral pleasure instead of dealing with eternal values.

This is the message now, make yourselves ready to meet Jesus as a bride without stains and wrinkles.

For those who have ears should listen carefully.

Deuteronomy 6,4-5

Hear Israel, the LORD is our God, the LORD alone! 5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength."

Listen to Israel, give my words the attention they deserve. It's as if he's saying, let me tell you, let me give you a hint, because what I'm saying now is more than important for the rest of your life. That my children ... is the first and the greatest of all commandments. Notice what I am telling you, listen and direct all your aspirations to it.

I mention the fourfold aspect of love because I lay a foundation so that everyone can grasp the first commandment in its depth. If we do not take this commandment seriously, it undermines the first dimension, namely God's love for us, which negatively affects all subsequent dimensions of love.

We will never be able to love God in the quality in which He loves us, much less to love us, let alone to love our neighbors as ourselves. Let us remember, we can only pass on what we have ourselves. Sure, we love them as we love ourselves, but does that reflect the intensity of God with which He loves?

Galatians 5:14

For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, in which: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself".

KEEPING THE COMMANDMENTS OF JESUS

We must love God according to His conditions, that is, as He defines love.

1. Corinthians 13,4-7

4 Love is long-suffering and kind, love does not envy, love does not boast, it does not inflate; 5 she is not indecent, she does not seek her own, she does not allow herself to be bitter, she does not attribute evil; 6 she does not rejoice in injustice, but she rejoices in the truth; 7 she endures everything, she believes everything, she hopes everything, she endures everything.

Jesus wants us to love Him in such a way that we give Him control over our lives. A key truth of the end times is how we define love. It is defined by God's point of view and not by our humanistic culture - love without obedience to God's Word. In our humanistic culture, there are definitions of love, of being free and freedom that have no biblical reference. God will never ask us to love without a biblical basis.

Jesus defines love for God as deeply rooted in the spirit of obedience. There is no such thing as loving God according to His definition without the honest and constant desire to obey God's Word. As a result, love is not possible without obedience and discipline.

John 14:15-21

15 If you love me, keep my commandments!

21 He who records my commandments and obeys them is the one who loves me; but he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him.

John 14:23

23 ... If someone loves me, he will obey my word, and my father will love him, and we will come to him and make an apartment with him.

The Sermon on the Mount (*Matthew 5-7*) defines love for God's conditions. It invites us to emulate the eight Beatitudes with one hundred percent obedience.

Matthew 5:3-12

- *Blessed is the spiritually poor; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven!*

- *Blessed are the mourners; for they shall be comforted!*
- *Blessed is the meek; for they will inherit the land!*
- *Blessed is those who hunger and thirst for righteousness because they should be fed!*
- *Blessed is the merciful; for they will attain mercy!*
- *Blessed is those who are pure of heart; for they will see God!*
- *Blessed is the peaceful; for they will be called God's children!*
- *Blessed is those who are persecuted for the sake of justice; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven!*
- *Blessed are you when they insult and persecute you and lie all sorts of evils talk to you again for my sake! Rejoice and rejoice; for your reward is great in heaven; for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

On the other hand, he asks us to resist the six negative influences. I do not want to comment specifically on the individual negative areas, as the Word of God provides us with sufficient explanations - namely:

Adultery

Matthew 5:27-32

27 You have heard that to the ancients it is said, "Thou shalt not commit adultery!" 28 But I say unto you, whoever looks at a woman in order to desire her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 But if your right eye becomes an offense [sin] to you, tear it out and cast it from you! For it is better for you that one of your limbs is lost than that your whole body is thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand becomes an offense [to sin] unto you, cut it off and cast it from you! For it is better for you that one of your limbs is lost than that your whole body is thrown into hell. 31 It is also said: "Whoever divorces his wife, give her a divorce letter".32 But I say unto you, whoever divorces his wife, except for fornication, makes her break the marriage. And whoever marries a divorcee breaks the marriage.

Swear

Matthew 5:33-37

33 Again you have heard that it is said to the ancients, "Thou swear wrong; but thou shalt keep thy oaths unto the Lord". 34 But I tell you that ye shall not swear at all, neither in heaven, for he is God's throne, 35, nor with the earth, for it is the stool of his feet, nor of Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great king. 36 Thou swear unto thy head either, for thou shalt not make a single hair white or black. 37 But let it be your speech: Yes, yes! No, no! What is above it is of evil.

Retaliate

Matthew 5:38-42

38 You have heard it said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth!" 39 But I say unto you, Ye shall not resist evil; but if someone hits you on your right cheek, offer the other to him as well; 40 And to him who will go to court with thee, and take your shirt, also leave the cloak unto him; 41 And if anyone compels thee to go a mile, go with him two. 42 Give unto him who asks you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you!

Mammon or love of money

Matthew 6:19-24

19 You shall not gather treasures on earth, where the moths and rust eat them, and where the thieves dig and steal. 20 Rather, gather treasures in heaven, where neither the moths nor the rust eat them, and where the thieves do not dig and steal! 21 For where your treasure is, there will be your heart. 22 The eye is the lamp of the body. Now when your eye is louder, your whole body will be light. 23 But if your eye is corrupted, your whole body shall be dark. Now when the light in you is darkness, how great will the darkness be! 24 No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate one and love the other, or he will attach to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and Mammon!

Worry

Matthew 6:25-34

25 Wherefore, I say unto you, do not worry about your life, what ye shall eat, and what ye shall drink, nor your body, what ye shall wear! Isn't life more than food and body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of heaven: they do not sow and reap, nor do they gather in the barns, and your Heavenly Father nourishes them. Aren't you worth much more than them? 27 But who of you can add a single elle to your lifetime by your worries? 28 And why do you care about clothes? Look at the lilies of the field as they grow! They do not bother and do not spin; 29 But I tell you that Solomon, in all his glory, was not clothed like one of them. 30 If God now clothes the grass of the field that stands today and will be thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not do it much more to you, you little believers? 31 Therefore ye shall not worry and say, "What will we eat?" or: What will we drink? or: What will we dress with? 32 For all these things are sought by the Gentiles, but your Heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 Rather, seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you! 34 Wherefore, ye shall not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will take care of His own. Every day his own plague is enough.

Judge

Matthew 7:1-6

1 Do not judge, lest you be judged! 2 For with the same judgment with which ye judge ye shall be judged; and with the same degree with which you attribute to [others], you too will be measured. 3 But what do you see the splinter in your brother's eye, and the bar in your eye you don't notice? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, "Stop, I will pull the splinter out of your eye!" And behold, the bar is in thy eye?

Matthew 7:5

5 You hypocrites, first pull the bar out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to pull the splinter out of your brother's eye! 6 Do not give the sacred to the dogs, and do not throw your pearls before the sow, lest they crush them with their feet, and [those] may not turn and tear you apart.

The following six positive spiritual nutrients (*Matthew 6:1-21*) are suitable for feeding us because they prepare us to activate the Spirit of grace in our lives that are there:

Giving and serving

Matthew 6:1-14

1 Be careful not to give your alms unto the people to be seen by them; otherwise, you have no reward with your Heavenly Father. 2 Now, when you give alms, you shall not be trumpeted before you, as the hypocrites in the synagogues and in the alleys do, to be praised by the people. Verily, I say to you, they have already received their reward. 3 But when you give alms, let your left hand not know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your alms may be hidden. And your father, who looks into the hidden, he will publicly repay you.

Pray

Matthew 6:5-13

5 And when thou shalt pray, thou shalt not be like the hypocrites; for they like to stand in the synagogues and on the street corners and pray to be noticed by the people. Verily, I say to you, they have already received their reward. 6 But when you pray, go into your little room, and close your door, and pray unto your Father, who is hidden; and your Father, who looks into the hidden, will publicly repay you. 7 And when ye pray, ye shall not babble like the Gentiles; for they think they will be heard for the sake of their many words. 8 Wherefore, ye shall not be like them! For your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. 9 Therefore, ye should pray in this way: Our Father, who is in heaven! Be sanctified your name. 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done as in heaven, so also on earth. 11 Give us our daily bread today. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13 And do not tempt us but save us from the evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and glory forever! Amen.

Much more aptly, Jesus' prayer is formulated in this way, because it refers to the fact that in God's plan everything that he has planned is to be regarded as complete. And in addition, the protruding passages in the Greek urtext in the Aorist ¹ screamed and that is.

Matthew 6:8–13

Our Heavenly Father sanctified is your name, your kingdom is coming, your will is done as in heaven so on earth, you give us our daily bread today You forgive us our debts as we have forgiven our debtors. You do not tempt us as you have redeemed us from evil. For yours is the rich and the power and the glory.

Bless

Matthew 5:44

But I say to you: love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who insult and persecute you,

Forgive

Matthew 6:12

And forgive us our debts, just as we forgive our debtors.

Matthew 6:14-15

14 For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men for their transgressions, your Father will not forgive you for your transgressions.

Fast

Matthew 6:16-18

But when ye fast, ye shall not see dark as the hypocrites; for they disguise their face so that people notice that they are fasting. Verily, I say to you, they have already received their reward. 17 But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, 18 that it may not be noticed by the people that you are fasting, but by your Father, who is in secret; and your Father, who investigates the hidden, will publicly repay you.

Collect treasures

¹ the aorist, which indicates a punctual event, the conclusion (effective) or the beginning (ingressive) of an event. The term "selective" expresses the contrast to the linear present stem.

Matthew 6:19-21

19 You shall not gather treasures on earth, where the moths and rust eat them, and where the thieves dig and steal. 20 Rather, gather treasures in heaven, where neither the moths nor the rust eat them, and where the thieves do not dig and steal! 21 For where your treasure is, your heart is also in.

Our spiritual growth will be measured by the following criteria:

- *How much "Sermon on the Mount" we live in our everyday lives*

THE FOUR DIMENSIONS OF LOVE GOD DEMANDS

God's priority and the first weight of the Holy Spirit is that we deepen our love for God on His terms.

Matthew 22:37-38

*And Jesus said to him: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your thinking". **This is the first and greatest commandment.***

Mark 12:30

... and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy thought, and with all thy strength!" This is the first commandment.

Jesus did not call "loving God" the first option, but explicitly the first and greatest commandment. Jesus makes it unmistakably clear that cultivating the love relationship with Him is our first and most important task and that the Holy Spirit will help us to learn "love God".

Let's this pass on our tongues: The deity has everything, yet she is looking for something of us that she wants in the first place. What might that be - what she longs for first and most?

It is our voluntary love for her and our undivided heart that seeks her. This is the mystery, the mystery - of our human life, our being, our destiny - hidden in the authenticity and truth of this reciprocal, equal love relationship.

Nurturing and nurturing love for God has a great influence, both on God and on our own hearts. Everyone who loves Jesus and is loved by him will also love people.

Unfortunately, there are people who seek God's will for their lives, but they focus more on learning what they are doing rather than what they should become. Then, when they mention their calling, they speak of the greatness, scope, and influence of their work, of their ministry, rather than the greatness and depth of God's love that has gripped their hearts.

We must be aware that the greatest grace we can receive is being imbued with God's love, expressing and passing it on. This brings about the most abundant blessing and freedom possible for us and our environment and is therefore the greatest reward for us.

1. DIMENSION - LOVE GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART

We must bring our emotions, into our love for God. God wants more than just a "compulsory service." Our love for God touches our emotional movements, our innermost emotions, but without slipping into emotional emotionality.

Our will plays a decisive role in how our emotions develop over time. We can indulge in a greater, deeper attraction and dependence on God by growing our hearts in this area.

We can direct our love, affection and affinity to all we want. Our emotional movements, our emotions follow our zeal with which we pursue our goal.

As our minds change, the Holy Spirit changes our hearts, emotional movements, and emotions. Focus your heart on loving God and your innermost being will - after a short time - align itself according to your purpose.

Psalm 91:14

Because he clings to me, therefore I will save him; I want to protect him because he knows my name.

David made a heartfelt decision - to love God. He chose to love God with everything that made him who he was.

Psalm 18:1

I will love you from the bottom of my heart, O LORD, my strength!

Our mood movements and emotions have a very strong and important influence on our lives. That is why God wants us to love Him with these areas of our lives, with our soul life and emotions. Our heart must remain conscientiously focused on purity.

We preserve our hearts by not allowing our emotions to make inappropriate connections to money, position, honor, false relationships, sinful habits, bitterness, and sinful actions.

Proverbs 4:23

More than anything else, protect your heart; for it is from him that life emanates.

Remember, being a Christian is an ongoing love affair with a person. The single, fiery devotion and radical choice for justice will not be able to keep us steadfast - be it then, God's love permeates our lives.

So, it is urgently necessary that we resist the vain fantasies that can gradually stir up our emotions through the most diverse sensory desires.

That is why we express our love to God by fundamentally resisting and rejecting all emotions that contradict His will.

2. DIMMING - LOVE GOD WITH ALL YOUR MIND

We fill our minds with what fuels love for God instead of what diminishes it. Remember, whatever we do with our minds has a huge impact on our ability to love.

If we fill our minds with the right things, our capacity to love Jesus will increase; however, when we fill our minds with false, void things, we inhibit them.

Our mind is the entrance to our inner human being. A large part of our lives takes place in our minds.

The language of the human mind are pictorial ideas or images and illustrations. Our mind is provided with an "internal projector" that continuously projects pictorial, vivid thinking into our consciousness. It's like an inner video camera that visually stores our memories and experiences.

We play the producer, leading actor and consumer of our internal films. So, we produce the inner films, play in them, and watch them. We are all in one - both the hero and the scoundrel.

These projected ideas in our minds are a self-sufficient universe. It cannot be displaced and can never be switched off. We can't turn off these images in our minds – but we can change them. We can replace dark, bad, sinful thoughts with new, divine ones.

It's up to us to rewrite it as the script of the film that we constantly watch inside of us. This is done by reading the Word of God regularly in prayer, meditating on what we have read together with the Holy Spirit. Thus, the script of the film, which is projected onto our "inner screen", is rewritten.

Our minds have a powerful potential for influence and extraordinary influence on our life course, yet many people - including many believers - do not pay attention to what they use to nourish their minds. They fill their minds with dull conversation, daydreaming about vanities, rather than the Holy Spirit and God's Word.

In short, we love God with our minds by taking the time to fill Him with God's Word and thus God's thoughts so that we may know Him, Jesus, and His truth. Lies about God — His heart as a tender, loving Father, the passionate bridegroom king, the glorious king, and righteous judge — are revealed and we can reject them.

This happens because we love Jesus and keep His commandments, He reveals Himself to us as He really is. We do not follow the mirage that we have made of Him or that has been imparted to us, because by keeping Jesus' commandments and meditating on the Word of God, we know what It really is.

In addition, Jesus exposes Satan's strategies of leading us to sin.

- ***An example of adultery:***
How the spirit of immorality works. Sexual fantasies are first stimulated in our thoughts. This is reinforced by the pleasurable viewing of actual people or digitized images.

- *The evolution towards adultery: Eye adultery leads to heartbreak, which leads to circumstances that lead to actual, physical adultery.*

Matthew 5:28

But I tell you: whoever looks at a woman in order to desire her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

- *Basic rule: sexual purity and control is first established in the area of the eyes. Jesus desires that we understand the role of the eyes as the gate of the primarily fighting front, for preventing the spirit of immorality. It is easier to confront the lust for the eyes and close this gate than to deal with the fire of immoral inclinations.*
- *Job understood the spirit of the seventh commandment and the energy of eye pleasure.*

Job 31:1.

I had a covenant with my eyes that I was not [covetously] looking at a virgin.

Job 31:9

Has my heart let itself be carried away to a woman, or have I lurked at the door of my neighbor,

3. DIMMING - LOVE GOD WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH

We are to love God with our resources (time, money, energy, talents, words, and influence). We express our love for God in the way we use our resources for Him.

They are usually used to enhance our personal comfort and reputation.

God cares about how we show Him our love when we invest our resources in our relationship with Him and thereby help others to love Him. We show the dimension and depth of our love in the six disciplines in the Sermon on the Mount

- *Give and Serve* *Matthews 6.1-14*
- *Pray* *Matthews 6,5-13*
- *Bless* *Matthews 4,44*
- *Forgive* *Matthews 6:12 and 6:14-15*

- *Fast* *Matthews 6,16-18*
- *Collecting Treasures Matthews 6:19-21*

4. Dimension - Love with the whole Soul

Our identity is determined by what we define ourselves. In other words, our success, self-esteem and, finally, how we see ourselves.

We should derive our identity from the love relationship, the love relationship with God, instead of from our achievements and the recognition we receive from people.

However, when we draw our identity from achievements and recognition, we are drawn into an emotional storm – bias on the one hand and vanity on the other.

Let us focus on achievements, however large and significant or small and insignificant they may be - which inevitably leads us to believe greatness or nullity. So, we feel big and significant or small and insignificant, exploited by people, rejected, and neglected.

Our success must be defined by the fact that we are chosen by God and loved by God - who return His love on His terms. This alone determines our identity and our self-esteem permanently, constantly and securely. This truth must be the basis of our identity, success and self-worth, not achievements, recognition and possessions.

Our identity must be based on "loved by God and to love Him." Accordingly, our confession is "I am loved, and I am a lover - that's why I am successful."

So, let's get into the topic. When I asked God what the secret behind Jesus' ministry is, what and what we must consider, I was referred to Mark 12:30-31. And I want to put this verse above what we go through together.

Mark 12:30-31

30 ... and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and

with all thy thought, and with all thy strength This is the first commandment. 31 And the second is comparable to [him], even this: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself!" No other commandment is greater than this.

And already we are in the middle of the topic. The two verses are the linchpin of Jesus' ministry. Verse 30 describes the basis of his work, with verse 31 describing the effects of verse 30.

God created us to love Him in four areas of our lives.

- *So, with all our heart (affection),*
- *whole soul (personality),*
- *whole mind (thoughts)*
- *full force (resources)*

This is his requirement for us, because he loves us, each of us ourselves in this intensity. Let us look at what prevents people from working in the authority of the Holy Ghost, as He could work through Jesus.

Out of our own conviction and we will direct all our affection to God, we could manage to direct our mind to him by our will, also I think it could be to love him with all our strength so all our resources such as strength, time, finances etc., but it seems impossible to me to love God with all our soul and our whole personality.

Only if we are to love God with all our heart, our soul belongs to it. That's where the problem lies in our soul. So, let's define what it means to love God with all your soul or our whole personality.

The primary goal is to love God through our humble way of life and the resulting way of expressing ourselves (speaking). Let us remember what we say reinforces or suppresses our ability to love God with His power.

Ephesians 4:29-32

29 Not a bad word shall come out of your mouth, but what is good for edification, where it is necessary, that it may bring grace to the hearers. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which ye have been sealed for the day of redemption! 31 Let all bitterness and anger and anger and crying and blasphemy be done away from you, including all wickedness. 32 But be kind and merciful to one another, and forgive one another, just as

God has forgiven you in Christ.

Ephesians 5:4

... nor shameful and silly gossip or jokes that do not belong to each other, but rather thanksgiving.

Our decision to walk our way of life in humility is the return of our eyes to God. Because it is obviously a very central concept in the eyes of God, let us consider the definition that there is no ambiguity about the content of the word humility.

Word content of humility:

According to the origin, the word content of humility is the servant, modest attitude of a follower or servant. Now we should understand one thing, followers or servants represented the interests of their master or they worked for their master in certain areas assigned to them.

This meant that everyone had different difficulties, due to their personality, origin and the circumstances in which they lived. Therefore, he also had different ways of showing his loyalty and devotion to his master.

Please don't think it would be any different with us ... we also have the most diverse difficulties, which are due to our personality, origin, history and the circumstances in which we live. That is why every person has different opportunities to show his love to God. Ultimately, it is not the way we show our love to God, but that we prove our love to Him by maintaining a servant attitude, or as the Bible says, a serving heart of a loyal follower who articulates himself like, what, and what we talk about.

Matthew 11:29

*Take upon yourselves my yoke and **learn from me**, for I am meek and humble in heart; so, you will find rest for your souls!*

In my experience, many Christians have reservations about going under the yoke of Jesus because they don't know exactly what that might mean for them. I would like to make two points:

- *Learn from me*
- *Finding peace for our soul*

Learn from me ... the question arises all by itself, what should we learn? Jesus Himself gives us the answer... I am meek and humble in heart. So, he wants to teach us what makes him who he is ... Gentleness and humility.

Its goal is also defined, namely so that our soul comes to rest. We are in constant inner unrest if the imprints created in us are not fully served. For example: fear of man ... Proud... Grumble... Be offended... Clapping, loose mouthwork ... Reproaches to God and man because of... Have been passed over ... Injustice... Requests and prayers that have not been answered... to name just a few of our naughties classified as of no importance ... what they really are, to mention sins I am sure, everyone finds themselves addressed.

Our soul comes to rest when we would finally understand what constitutes a humble, servant heart, namely that we have made all claims to respect for human honor, recognition, privileges, awards and praise for our being, deeds and achievements, and it is enough for us to carry out the mission that Jesus has given us diligently, faithfully, persistently and in all modesty. This gives our soul peace and serenity, as we no longer strive for transient values, but for eternal reward.

How we can get there, and I am sure everyone has the desire not only to recognize the way there, but also to walk it. We will show you this way in detail later. For us to clearly recognize the steps we must take, we ask the Holy Spirit to explain to us the nature of Jesus, whom he so loves.

Jesus loves us with all his soul, expressed through his humility.

Philippians 2,6-8

6 Who, when he was in the form of God, did not hold it as a robbery to be like God; 7 But he emptied himself, took the form of a servant, and became like men; 8 And invented in his outward appearance as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even death on the cross.

When we understand the nature of Jesus and his humility, we inspire and instruct us to ask the Holy Spirit to help us love God as He loves us.

Matthew 11:29

... for I am meek and humble of heart.

Today, humility and modesty are not necessarily one of the things that seem desirable. We forget, however, that it was precisely the servant, humble disposition of a servant that distinguished Jesus as the Son of Man. Remember, gentleness and modesty is controlled strength and controlled handling of privileges. This also means controlling oneself in the use of power, except when it comes to love. Also, modesty is not to be confused with weakness, because that would mean absence of strength and we can not say that about Jesus.

Mark 10:45

For even the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many.

The deity always acts in gentleness, modesty and humility. In this way, Jesus also displays the riches of God in humility. He does not brag about what he has, with him there is no such thing as ... my house, my swimming pool, my car, my dog etc... as if he could not have a say and outdo everyone. But it's just not his way of bragging about what he is and what he owns. This inevitably raises the question, how can someone who is so strong bend down to us with such deep concern?

Just like Jesus, so is the Holy Spirit, he works as the helper within the Godhead. He is God by himself but has chosen to work behind the scenes without demanding his own recognition. He is happy and content in humility.

John 16:13-14

13 But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will lead you into the whole truth; for he will not speak of himself, but what he will hear, he will speak, and what is in the future, he will proclaim to you. 14 He will glorify me; for he will take from mine and proclaim to you.

Jesus' humility is most vividly manifested at the end of the millennial kingdom. Jesus, as King of all nations, has broken all resistance, both satan and that of men, and all will accept and worship Him with an undivided heart. He then hands over the kingdom to his Heavenly Father, for he wanted all the power to be king of kings, only to ultimately be able to return it to his Father.

1. Corinthians 15,24

24 ... then the end, when he will hand over the kingdom to God the Father, when he has

*eliminated all dominion, violence and power. 25 For he must reign until he has placed all enemies under his feet. 26 Death is eliminated as the last enemy. 27 For "he has subjected all things to his feet". But if it is said that everything is subject to him, it is evident that the one who has subjected everything to him is excluded. 28 **But if all things will be subject to him, then the Son himself will also submit to him who has subjected all things to him, that God may be all things in all.***

The humility of the Godhead is expressed in all his actions. Love and humility bear one and the same signature.

Psalm 113,4-8

4 The LORD is exalted above all Gentile nations; His glory is higher than the heavens. 5 Who is like the Lord our God, who is enthroned in such heights? 6 Who looks down so deeply on heaven and on earth; 7 who lifts the little one from the dust and the poor exalted from the feces, 8 to put him next to princes, next to the princes of his people.

If this being, leaning down to the lowly, to the poor, does not characterize God's serving being, I really do not know what else he could do to show us his goodness, his gentleness and his love. And yet he goes one step further and shows us his nature of love.

Philippians 2,3-9

3 Do not do anything out of selfishness or vain ambition, but in humility one respects the other more than himself. 4 Let each one not look at his own, but at that of the other. 5 For ye shall be as Christ Jesus was, 6 who, when he was in the form of God, did not hold upon himself as a robbery to be like God; 7 But he emptied himself, took the form of a servant, and became like men; 8 And invented in his outward appearance as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even death on the cross. 9 Wherefore, God has also exalted him beyond measure, and given him a name which is above all names,

John 17:5

And now you glorify me, Father, with yourselves with the glory that I had with you before the world was.

Hebrews 1:3

... he is the radiance of his glory and the expression of his essence and carries all things by the word of his power; He, having done the cleansing of our sins by Himself, has sat up at the right hand of Majesty.

Colossians. 1,15

This is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn, who is above all creation.

Hebrews 2:17

Therefore, he had to become like his brethren in every way, so that he might become a merciful and faithful High Priest in what concerns God, in order to atone for the sins of the people.

Luke 6:35

Rather, love your enemies and do good and borrow without hoping for anything in return; so, your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.

2 Corinthians 8,9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that although he was rich, he became poor for your sake, so that you might become rich through his poverty.

Revelation 5:12

they spoke with a loud voice: Worthy is the Lamb who has been slaughtered to receive strength and richness and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!

Jesus' serving heart, his humility is manifested by his incarnation and renunciation of the privileges to which he is entitled, out of love for us, his creation. Accordingly, we can conclude that renunciation of self-determination is deeply rooted in humility.

From eternity, Jesus was God's image, that is, he shared glory with the Father. Jesus, who lived before creation, was equal to God, confirmed and honored by God the Father. In God's image, Jesus was from eternity endowed with all glory and divine attributes and privileges.

Through his incarnation, Jesus embodies two natures within himself, completely God and fully human. Jesus was never less than God, but He lived as if He were never more than a man. During his earthly existence, he always abstained from his divinity of his own free will. This became our salvation.

Jesus did not hold on to the privileges of being equal to God. (v. 6). For him, the required step of humility of his incarnation was not something that ... that of the Son of God, or that of a servant filled with love ... would harm. With this step he renounced his privileges, but he did not deny his identity, rather he revealed his serving heart.

He did not see the incarnation as an injustice crying out to heaven—because it was

necessary for him to shed his glory to be human for all eternity and thus prepare the way for our salvation. (Revelation 3:21) Rather, he saw in the incarnation the opportunity to share in his wealth.

Jesus, if he wanted to satisfy the righteousness of God and be recognized by him as our high priest, had to live his whole life as a human being, sinlessly and without resorting to his own possibilities as God.

But we must know that Jesus never got rid of his divinity, even if he did not resort to his divine power during his earthly life. Jesus was God, hidden in the powerlessness of humanity. He could not do anything from his own omnipresence, omnipotence, or omniscience, even if he was completely God.

He lived completely dependent on the anointing of the Holy Spirit to perform miracles. Jesus is God and man who includes the different natures in one person. Jesus remained the head of the universe during his earthly existence. It is and remains the creative word that preserves everything and holds it together.

Hebrews 1:3

he is the radiance of his glory and the expression of his essence and carries all things by the word of his power; He, having done the cleansing of our sins by Himself, has sat up at the right hand of Majesty.

Colossians 1:17

and he is above all, and everything has its existence in him.

Christ the Anointed, stripped Himself of all possessions (*Philippians 2:7*) and made Himself poor.

2. Corinthians 8,9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that although he was rich, he became poor for your sake, so that you might become rich through his poverty.

He possessed all the majesty of a god, fulfilled all the functions of a god, and enjoyed all the privileges that came with it, and yet he was vulnerable to pain, frustration, and insecurity.

God's identity is love that finds its expression in humility. Jesus' identity is not

grounded in his power and uniqueness. Satan wanted to tempt Jesus because that's what drives him. If Jesus' identity had been based on his power, his incarnation would have meant loss and denial of what made him special. Our culture evaluates our value by the unique selling points we have created.

Jesus did not insist on his rights to live here on earth free from rejection and humiliation. He came incognito and not endowed with the glory he possessed, ... and which showed up on the Mountain of Transfiguration. Matthews 17

It was exactly what Jesus always sought to give and serve. What most expressed his fame and glory is his love and humility. He did not see it as ungodly to wash the feet of his disciples. It only expressed its own divinity. He saw low work as an opportunity to show who he really was... a humble God. Serving is the core of what God is.

Jesus' love is altruistically directed toward others to do them good. He is not biased by his own superiority but consumes himself for the good of the other.

Jesus possesses the glory and glory in Revelation 5:12 for our good. He had been rich from eternity. Jesus stripped Himself of all prestige. He welcomed shame and disgrace to become a servant. This was a new dimension for Jesus as He took the form of a servant without rights and honor.

I can imagine so vividly speaking to His Heavenly Father, it's so different... so different from what I had when I was still with you ... this is so different from the time of creation ... but Father it's a good thing.

Jesus did not come as the God of radiant glory (Revelation 4:3), but as an ordinary man. He wanted to identify with us and not impress. However, this was impossible without becoming human yourself.

Let's look in this light... we are naturally shaped by our self-image and are recognized for the sake of our good character traits, performance, and appearance. If we are not given the expected recognition, we are at least piqued.

Jesus was quite different, he experienced that everyone underestimated him and his possibilities. When he entered a room as a twenty-five-year-old man, no one would have had a glimpse of who he really was...when they saw him, nothing

distinguished him from others. He was a normal person in every way.

Jesus hid His divine glory. This is the deepest imaginable self-denial, while at the same time maintaining his full divine power. Jesus hid His divine rum and glory under the veil of humility.

He lived a life of human weakness, rejection, homelessness, poverty, effort, shame and pain. Despite this, he never hesitated for a moment to complete the divine plan of salvation... if he had done that... our fate and our future would have been touched by it.

Jesus suffered death on the cross. In his divine, eternal nature, he was immune to death. But as a human being, he would die in a way that required indescribable physical pain and emotional shame from him. Dying on the cross was considered a curse of God.

Galatians 3:13

Christ bought us rid of the curse of the law by becoming a curse for our sake, because it is written: "Cursed is everyone who hangs on the wood".

God is love. The core message of love is that love gives. The evaluation of love is what is given and not what is received. We are the reward of his sufferings. His passion for God and for us is his priority.

1 John 4:16– 21

16 ... God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God and God in him...

21 And this commandment we have of him that whoever loves God shall also love his brother.

1. John 3,16

By this we have recognized the love that He gave His life for us; we too owe it to give life for our brothers.

John 13:3-21

3 since Jesus knew that the Father had given him everything in his hands and that he had come from God and went to God, 4 he got up from the meal, took off his upper robe, took a robe, and surrounded himself; 5 Then he poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and dry them with the apron with which he was girded. 6 Then he comes to Simon Peter, and he says unto him, Lord, you wash my feet? 7 Jesus answered and said to him, "What I do, you do not understand now; but you will recognize it

afterwards. 8 Peter says unto him, under no circumstances shall you wash my feet! Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no fellowship with me." 9 Simon Peter says to him, "Lord, not only my feet, but also my hands and the head! 10 Jesus says to him, "He who is bathed does not need to be washed except his feet, but he is completely pure. And you are pure, but not all. 11 For he knew his traitor; therefore, he said: You are not all pure. 12 Now that he had washed their feet and put on his robe, he sat down again at the table and said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you?" 13 You call me Master and Lord, and say it rightly; because so am I. 14 If now I, the Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you too shall wash your feet; 15 For I have given you an example, that ye too may act as I have done unto you. 16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, that the servant is not greater than his Master, nor the Messenger greater than he who sent him. 17 Knowing this, you are blissful when you do!

Jesus existed from eternity as a servant. He was not born into something that did not correspond to his nature.

Jesus comes as a servant, whether the first time to die or when he comes back as king. The eternal regiment of God is servanthood. When he takes dominion, he commits earthly leadership to the rules of servant governance... always ready to wash others' feet. When Jesus returns, everything will be about love. He will gird Himself to serve His creation eternally. As the reigning king, he loves to use his power to enrich what he loves.

Luke 12:37

Blissful are those servants whom the Lord, when he comes, will find awake! Verily, I say unto you, He will gird himself and lead them to the table and come in and serve them.

It is Jesus' insatiable desire to tell the story of the Father and to make Him known to us humans. Jesus is God's self-expression. Jesus is God who tells the story of the Father. This is one of the reasons for Jesus' incarnation. Jesus is the imprint of the Father. He says whoever sees him sees the Father.

John 14:7-9

If you had known me, you would have also recognized my Father; and from now on you recognize him and have seen him. 8 Philip says unto him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us!" 9 Jesus says to him, "So long am I with you, and you have not yet known me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say: Show us the Father?"

John 17:26

And I have proclaimed your name to them, and I will proclaim it, so that the love with which you love me may be in them and I may be in them.

We would know nothing about Heavenly Father's goodness if Jesus had not died on the cross. God is love and he wanted a people to whom he could show his love.

Ephesians 2:4-6

4 But God ... for the sake of his great love, with which he loved us, 5 also us who were dead by the transgressions, with which Christ was made alive ... 6 And has raised us up and placed us in the heavenly [regions] in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the times to come he may show the exuberant richness of his grace in goodness unto us in Christ Jesus.

Jesus is God who reveals Himself. Each person of the Godhead reveals himself through the others. The Holy Spirit in the background acts on the word of the Son under the authority of the Father. Jesus did not serve out of his own divinity, but dependent on the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

The Father hid until the son revealed him, and the Son hid until the Father revealed him. No person of the deity tells his own story. They don't talk about themselves.

Each person of the deity contributes his own part to this great mystery of love. Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit, the friend of the bridegroom, who prepares us for the wedding. The Father gives us the son. Then the son gives everything back to the father. Jesus trusts and is completely dependent on the Father, as is the Father of the Son.

OUR DILEMMA – THE HOLY SPIRIT ANOINTS JESUS IN US

Together we have taken a closer look at the humble and servant Heart of Jesus. Of course, I had the intention to bring us closer to his nature. But there is also a reason for this.

We know that during his life here on earth, Jesus could not do anything of his own divinity, but only what he saw his Father do, again not out of his own divinity, but under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. He was completely dependent on the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Accordingly, Jesus was just as we are ... we cannot do anything of ourselves.

John 15:5–7

I am the vine; you are the vines. Whoever abides in me and I in him bears much fruit; for apart from me you cannot do anything.

7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye will ask what you will, and it will come to you.

Separately from me, you can't do anything, so the question we need to clarify is, how do we stay in him? Paul gives us the first clue. In His admonition in Philippians 2:3-5, He tells us impressively that we should walk in humility. He goes on to focus on the need for humble speaking, as this has one of the strongest effects on our love for Jesus. Just to give a few examples of what Paul says:

We should stop complaining about hiding our accusations under the guise of "being honest and sincere." Finally beat our chests and confess that we have sinned and repent.

- *Why are we so eager to justify ourselves?*
- *Why can't we stop complaining about nothingness?*

Philippians 2,12

Therefore... realize your salvation with fear and trembling ... 14 Do everything without grumbling and misgiving... 15 That ye may be uncritical and louder, blameless children of God... 16 By offering the Word of Life. (hold on to it)

Our speech

Love, that is, God's presence within us, grows when we are touched by the humility of Jesus, in which we see how he treats us.

James 1:19-21

19 ... therefore... be every person fast to hear, slow to talk, slow to anger ... 20 Wherefore, lay down upon all filth and all remnants of wickedness, and receive with gentleness the Word implanted in [you], which has the power to save your souls!

Loving God with all our souls speaks of loving Him with our deeply humble personality. The ultimate proof of our humility is our language. After all, it is the opportunity to express ourselves and to communicate. With our ability to express ourselves, we determine whether love, i.e., God, can work through us. When the mind is grieved, we do not receive the same measure from it. What we say promotes or clouds our ability to love Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4:29-32

Not a bad word should come out of your mouth, but what is good for edification, where it is necessary, so that it brings grace to the listeners. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which ye have been sealed for the day of redemption! 31 Let all bitterness and anger and anger and crying and blasphemy be done away from you, including all wickedness. 32 But be kind and merciful to one another, and forgive one another, just as God has forgiven you in Christ.

Ephesians 5:1-6

1 Now become God's imitators as beloved children 2 and walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us as an offering and sacrifice of battle, to a lovely smell for God. 3 But fornication, and all impurity or greed shall not be mentioned even among you, as befits saints; 4 also not shameful and silly gossip or jokes that do not belong to each other, but rather thanksgiving. 5 For ye shall know that no lewd or unclean or greedy (who is an idolater) has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Do not be seduced by anyone with empty words! For it is for these things that the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

Love is diminished by the destructive fire of false speech that affects our inner person. Our love for Jesus is hindered by complaining, lamenting, grumbling, and gossiping about others.

James 3:6

6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of injustice. Thus, the tongue takes its place among our limbs; it stains the whole body and sets fire to the perimeter of life and is set on fire by hell itself.. 8 But no man can conquer the tongue, the irrepressible evil full of deadly poison!

Matthew 12:34

Snake brood, how can you speak good since you are evil? Because what the heart is full of, that's what the mouth talks about.

Dealing with disappointment

We must learn to face disappointment in God's way in order to be free to grow in love for Him. Love for Jesus is visible in how we deal with unjust treatment, humiliation, slander, and abuse.

Let us react offended and withdraw, defend and justify ourselves, or bless and let it be God's business to defend us in His time and in His own way. Whatever may happen to us, we should see through the eyes of Jesus, and we will know the true

cause behind it.

Being offended and discontent can paralyze our spiritual lives and lead us to rebuke and accuse others, which in turn hinders our lives with God. Attacks that we have experienced and our handling of them show our trust in God, our love for God becomes visible and we will also hide in confidence with Him.

1 Peter 2:21– 23

21 For this is what you are called to do, because Christ also suffered for us and left us an example to follow in his footsteps... 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile again, when he suffered, he did not threaten, but gave it over to him who judges righteously.

We must learn to hand over our enemies into the hands of Jesus and His loving spiritual leadership. Ignoring this hinders our ability to experience people in the love of Jesus.

Psalms 31,5

Free me from the net they secretly put on me; for you are my protective defense.

Romans 12:19

Do not take revenge on yourselves, beloved, but give space to the wrath [of God]; for it is written: "Mine is revenge; I will repay, saith the Lord".