

WHOLEHEARTEDNESS IN OUR VOCATIONS



CALLED TO LOVE

Vocation: God calls us to wholeheartedly love him and others in whatever we do.

“Do everything in love.”

1 Corinthians 16:14

This is the reading of the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

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I read "Do everything in love" and felt this weight bro. Like I heard a parent saying, "James, do everything in love." And I'm thinking, "Even this [insert anything]?" With the response being "Do everything in love". Something about that initial response punched me in the gut and I just want to capture and pause in that.

Pastor James to Pastor Brandon

**If we are not fulfilling the call
to love, we cannot be disciples
of Jesus**

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To the church of God at Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called as saints, **with all those** in every place who call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord -- **both their Lord and ours.**

1 Corinthians 1:2

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**We need to resist the temptation
culturally, societally, economically to
allow this body to be homogeneous.
(We can't be a church of all ears.)**

Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, next miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all do miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in other tongues? Do all interpret? But desire the greater gifts. And I will show you an even better way.

1 Corinthians 12:27-31

If I speak human or angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so that I can move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give away all my possessions, and if I give over my body in order to boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not arrogant, is not rude, is not self-seeking, is not irritable, and does not keep a record of wrongs. Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put aside childish things.

For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully, as I am fully known. Now these three remain: faith, hope, and love -- but the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

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"I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13:34-35

“The regenerate man is able to see his fellow-man as God sees him, value him as God values him, not so much because of what he is by reason of his sin and unloveliness, but because of what, through Christ, he may become; he sees man's intrinsic worth and possibility in Christ.”

Williams Evans

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**To wholeheartedly love God,
we need patience to
understand that God's ways
are not our ways**

**We are not guaranteed that our
neighbors respond to our love
in a way we expect**

Cultural challenges to the call of love

1. The culture of getting as much as you can at the expense of others
2. The culture of fear of the other/the pull into tribalism
3. The culture of individualism

Other challenges to the call of love

1. Lack of discipline towards spiritual formation in discipleship with Jesus
2. Unresolved past wounds

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"As the Father has loved me, I have also loved you. Remain in my love. "If you keep my commands you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. "I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. "This is my command: Love one another as I have loved you. "No one has greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends. "You are my friends if you do what I command you.

"I do not call you servants anymore, because a servant doesn't know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have heard from my Father. "You did not choose me, but I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce fruit and that your fruit should remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. "This is what I command you: Love one another.

John 15:9-17

This is how we have come to know love: He laid down his life for us. We should also lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

1 John 3:16

**Our command to love is not
contingent on another person's
feelings towards us**

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Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

Colossians 3:12-14

For this reason I kneel before the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. I pray that he may grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with power in your inner being through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. I pray that you, being rooted and firmly established in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of God's love, and to know Christ's love that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:14-19

Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children, and walk in love, as Christ also loved us and gave himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God.

Ephesians 5:1-2

He said to him, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. "This is the greatest and most important command. "The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.

Matthew 22:37-39

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