

Character of a Disciple
Winter, 2022 | Immanuel Baptist Church
Jan. 30 – Loving God

What is the Greatest Commandment?

Deut. 6:4 ; Matt. 22:35-40 ; Luke 10:25-28 ; Mark 12:28-31, 32-34

What does that look like?

What does God's love for us look like?

Gen. 3 ; Num. 6 ; 1 Jn 4:9-10, 19 ; Romans 5:8 ; Jn. 3:16 ; etc.

What does love for God look like?

Psalms 42? ; Jn. 14:15 ; 1 Jn 4:20-21 ; Mark 14 ; Mt. 26:49 (16:24!)

How does one cultivate this?

We're after transformation of **Character** – What you do naturally and easily.

Heart – Your will; executive center; the part of you that is 'you'. God respects this part of his image bearers so much, that he will allow you to choose to reject him. (Gen. 4)
This is the thing that must be surrendered to God. And we must surrender it.

Phil. 2:12-13 ; Psalm 37:4

? So are there habits, practices, disciplines, etc. that will regularly and consistently put us in the place of growth, so that we will begin to not only grow, but to normalize our desired behavior?

Matthew 4:1-11 ; 6:9-15 ; Psalm 23 ; etc.

...The real problem of the Christian life comes where people do not usually look for it. It comes the very moment you wake up each morning. All your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals. And the first job each morning consists simply in shoving them all back; in listening to that other voice, taking that other point of view, letting that other larger, stronger, quieter life come flowing in. And so on, all day. Standing back from all your natural fussings and frettings; coming in out of the wind.

We can only do it for moments at first. But from those moments the new sort of life will be spreading through our system: because now we are letting Him work at the right part of us. It is the difference between paint, which is merely laid on the surface, and a dye or stain which soaks right through. He never talked vague, idealistic gas. When He said, 'Be perfect,' He meant it. He meant that we must go in for the full treatment. It is hard; but the sort of compromise we are all hankering after is harder—in fact, it is impossible. It may be hard for an egg to turn into a bird: it would be a jolly sight harder for it to learn to fly while remaining an egg. We are like eggs at present. And you cannot go on indefinitely being just an ordinary, decent egg. We must be hatched or go bad.

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (1952; Harper Collins: 2001) 198-199.