

“Priorities Based on Love”

1 John 4:7-13, 20-21, Mark 12:28-31

Tony Toth, Jan 18, 2026

I. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING

A. How You Spend What Is _____

B. Prioritizing Our Time To Create _____

Psalm 90:12 “So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.”

C. God’s _____ Should Matter Most

Ephesians 5:15–17 “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, ...do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”

II. LIVING A LIFE OF LOVE

1 Corinthians 16:14 “Let all that you do be done in love.”

A. God _____

1 John 4:7–8 “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

B. The Most Important Thing Is _____

Mark 12:28–30 “Which commandment is the most important of all?” Jesus answered, “The most important is...you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”

C. 2nd Most Important Thing Is _____

Mark 12:31 The second is this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.

1 John 4:19–21 We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

III. NEW PRIORITIES BASED ON LOVE

A. Let God _____

1 Corinthians 13:4–7 “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

B. Let God _____ In Us

1 John 4:12–13 “No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.”

THE NEXT FAITHFUL STEP

1. Defining Love: Discuss with family and friends this week what love is. Ask each other to give examples of love. Compare those examples to God’s definition in 1 Corinthians 13.

2. Creating New Margins. Adjusting our schedules and budget to reflect what matters most is an exercise of discipline and wisdom. Wisdom is taking the information you have received today and making good decisions with it. Discipline is needed to practice removing or shortening items from the schedule so that loving God and loving others well become more of a priority.