

SELF-EVALUATION AND REFLECTION 3

JANUARY 21, 2024

2 COR. 13:5 NLT

This month our focus is on doing a self-evaluation to determine our spiritual progress. Our questions were based on the Ten Commandments. Today, our shift will be from the Old Testament laws to the New Testament Law of Love. Why? Because salvation is threefold: justification, sanctification, and glorification (**ROM. 8:22-23 NLT**). **TITUS 2:11-15** These verses reveal our posture while waiting.

The New Commandment JOHN 13:34-35 NLT

- What's new about it? **LEV. 19:18** "As I have loved you" is new! This depth of love is infinitely more profound than "love your neighbor as yourself".
- **JOHN 15:13** There is no greater love than sacrificing our life so others can live. **ROM. 9:1-5 NLT** Paul was willing to give his life for Israel. There is no greater love than this.
- For Example: Someone needs a heart transplant. You offer yours knowing you will die if you do. Your love moves you to do so.

Questions

- 1.) Has my love for Christ grown stronger or weaker? **JOHN 14:21-24** Love for Christ is proven by keeping His commandments and following His plan for our lives (**JOHN 21:15-22 NLT**).
- 2.) Has my love for others decreased or increased? **1 JOHN 3:14-24 NLT** Not only is loving one another commanded, it's the way we bring others to Christ.
- 3.) Has my love for my enemies decreased or increased? **MT. 5:43-48 NKJV** Matthew 5 contains a long list of reversals concluding with "love your enemies". If we think that's radical today, imagine how radical it would've been to those living under Roman rule. Although the Israelites experienced a form of peace under Roman rule, they also experienced much persecution. Such as tax burdens that left many near poverty. Rome was viewed as the enemy and Jesus told them to love them and pray for them. The Messiah was supposed to deliver them from their enemies.
- 4.) Is spiritual perfection my goal? **HEB. 6:1-3 AMPC** If so, how do I rate myself on: loving my enemies; blessing those who curse me; doing good to those who hate me; and praying for those who persecute me?
- 5.) Is my passion for perfection more important than any earthly achievement? **PHIL. 3:7-15 AMPC**
- 6.) Is love motivating all the activity of my life? **1 COR. 13:1-3 MSG** and **COL. 3:12-14 AMPC**.

Conclusion: To be Continued.