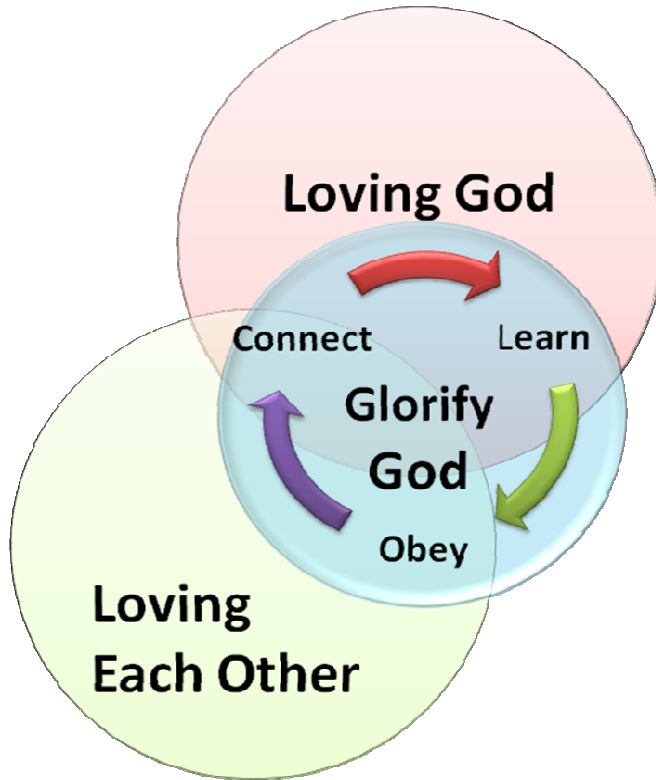


**Sticking with the Mission: “Loving One Another”  
John 13:31-35 and 15:12-15**

We’ve begun this year by working through our mission statement. A mission statement gives direction and focuses our future. It provides guidelines for decision making and inspires unity. Our mission statement has at the center: “glorify God.” We do this in three primary ways—loving God, loving each other, and reaching our world. This morning we are going to focus our attention on what “loving one another” looks like. We need to identify the pattern of love in the Bible and later look at how we can serve one another and do good deeds for one another.



## **Biblical Pattern of Love**

- The Father loves the Son and the Son loves and obeys the Father. (John 17:23; John 8:29)
- The Father and the Son love the disciples. (1 John 4:10, 19; John 15:12) The Spirit empowers the disciples to love (Galatians 5:22-23; Romans 5:5).
- The disciples love the Father and the Son. (Matthew 22:37-38; John 15:12-15; 1 John 4:7-21) Their love is evidenced is obedience. (John 14:15, 21, 23) Obedience is summarized by the command to “Love one another.” (John 13:34-35; 15:12; Romans 13:8-10; Galatians 5:14)
- The disciples are to love their enemies. (Matthew 5:43-48)
- The disciples’ love for each other is a testimony to the world. (John 13:35)

## **Day by Day in the Word**

“Day by Day in the Word” is a tool we use to help us in the process of becoming more and more like Jesus and ultimately to bring glory to God. The biblical principle is: The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to bring about Christlikeness.

### **Monday-Tuesday**

- Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. What were the Corinthians seeking and what was Paul’s “most excellent way”? (1 Corinthians 12:31) What does Paul say about the following gifts in 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (tongues, prophecy, faith, give) with regard to love?
- Identify the various characteristics of love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Choose two of them and work on a clear definition which you can share with another person. Be sure to use a Bible Dictionary or a good Study Bible. Identify one or two areas where you can practice these characteristics of love and make a plan to do that. Be sure to have someone hold you accountable.

### **Wednesday-Thursday**

- Read 1 John 4:7-21. What is the relationship between God’s love and our love for one another? We know that God loves us. We know that we are to love others. But we also know that we can’t love others in our own strength. So how can we love others?
- Identify various ways that our church can express its love for God and for one another. What can you do today that would help bring that about?
- Learning to love begins with our insides, responding to God’s love, and continues as we learn to see needs in others. What physical, emotional, spiritual needs can you identify in others? In love, how can you help to meet these needs?

### **Friday-Saturday**

- Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9, focusing on v. 5, and Leviticus 19:18. You will find these verses quoted as the Great Commandment in Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-31. Try to distinguish the differences between the Greek words *eros*, *phileo*, and *agapao*.
- What does it mean to love God with your heart, soul, and mind?
- What does it look like to love your neighbor? Perhaps Luke 10:25-37 would be of help.
- Identify one or two neighbors whom you could love this week and begin doing just that. Share what you’re doing with a friend and bring these individuals before the Lord.