

ENCOUNTER GOD SERVICE – ZACH STILWELL

FIRST COMMANDMENT – ABIDING IN LOVE

I. REVIEW

- A. Make loving God the dream of your heart.
- B. Loving God in these 4 ways
 - 1. Heart – What we set our affections on.
 - 2. Mind – What we feed our mind.
 - 3. Strength – How we choose to use our skills and resources.
 - 4. Soul – Living from one true spiritual identity.

II. GOD LOVES GOD

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.” John 15:9

- A. In order to pursue walking out the greatest commandment, we begin with understanding how God feels about God. We must pursue increased understanding of the perfect love found in the Trinity.
- B. Why do we need to have increased understanding of how God feels about God? It is because the way God loves in the Trinity is the only way He loves.
- C. The Father is thrilled with loving Jesus and Jesus is filled with joy and enthusiasm in loving the Father. Throughout all of Scripture, the Father spoke to many people and the prophets about His beloved Son. When Jesus was on earth, He constantly spoke of His Father.

“I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me. But that the world may know that I love the Father and as the Father gave me commandment, so I do.” John 14:30-31
- D. Jesus’ chief motivating factor to live a life full of obedience and holiness was the love that He shared with the Father. Jesus did not obey the Father mainly out of duty or even for His assignment on the earth. It delighted Jesus to obey and love His Father.
- E. God empowers us to love Him and others when He reveals how much He loves us. We will only love God and others to the measure that we see how He loves us.

“We love Him because He first loved us.” 1 John 4:19

“May have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” Ephesians 3:18-19

III. OUR TOP PRIORITY

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.” John 15:9

- A. We must ask the Father to impart His love for Jesus into our hearts. God invites us into this divine relationship so that we can enjoy the love the Trinity has enjoyed since before time.
 - 1. In doing this, we determine the course that our emotions develop over time. As we change our goals, the Spirit changes our hearts, emotions, and desires.
 - 2. One of the most important decisions in our life is when we intentionally determine that our *primary dream* is to walk out the first commandment.
- B. We never graduate from needing more revelation of the love of God. This is something we have to constantly resubscribe to.
- C. Our breakthrough is directly tied to the revelation of God’s love.
- D. If our conversational topic with God is mostly about our opportunities, needs, or things we want to happen then we are missing the primary purpose God has for us. Our hearts will never be satisfied if this is what dominates our prayer life.
- E. In order to love God with all of our heart, mind, strength, and soul, we must live fixed on His great love.

“I in them and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that you have sent Me, and have loved them as you have Loved Me.” John 17:23