

Going on to Maturity 5

A study in Christian maturity and what it looks like particularly in relation to the mission of MBC in the Musselburgh Community.

INTRODUCTION

In *Going on to Maturity* so far, we have looked at a number of important keys to growing up in God. This week we are putting all of that in context with the most important thing, love. The classic wedding chapter, 1 Corinthians 13, states categorically that a person may have all the most desirable spiritual attributes in the world, but without love, it all means nothing! No more is this in evidence in the Pharisees whom Jesus reprimanded in Luke 11:42 for passing over the love of God while fanatically following the letter of the Law! In other words they had moved into the place of focusing on the mechanics of religion rather than living in Love. Christians likewise can be in danger of repeating this same mistake (Rev 2:4ff) and so this study is about rediscovering Love.

STUDY

Start your time together with some prayer focusing on the love of God, your experience and knowledge of his goodness and grace because 'we love because he first loved us'.

Read *Luke 10:25-42*

1. What is it you must do to receive eternal life according to Jesus?

2. Do you think the teacher of the Law knew what loving God meant? What does it mean to you?

Read the parable again (*Luke 10:29-37*) and *Luke 6:27-36* for more of Jesus teaching on this subject. Then discuss the following

3. What do you think the teacher of the law wanted to justify himself of? Would this be a common response?
4. What was it about the Samaritans response that was different to the others in the parable? Would the others have acted differently had it been someone they cared for?
5. Reflect on your response to the needs of people both specifically and generally. What motivates you in responding to others?
6. In v37 Jesus says this is not about a nice theory. Can you think of a situation now that demands a similar response to the Good Samaritan? How will you continue to develop this aspect of your life?

Read *Luke 10:38-42*

7. Do you think there is a link between these two passages? Discuss.
8. It often seems that people naturally lean one way or the other in this matter. Is this true of you and what can you do to maintain the other area as well?

Read *John 15:12-17*

9. Discuss together what you know, of how Jesus showed love for others (and his father). Do you think Jesus showed "love" in everything he did?
10. "Until you know love, you cannot give love." discuss

Finally read *Ephesians 3:14-21* as a benediction together and spend some time praying this prayer for one another to know more of this love.