

# The Foundation of Life

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**“Thou shalt not have any other Gods before me.”**

There are a lot of things that people find to be the base of motivation for their lives. For some it is money, for others power and still others status or maybe popularity. But for me I see the first commandment as my foundation. I see implications in this commandment that God is my creator and we have a special relationship that no other can fill. I think that this is what Jesus was referring to when He stated that **“Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength; this is the first commandment. Mark 12:30** You would have to agree that love is the most powerful motivator for good. It is by love that the greatest sacrifices are made willingly without consideration to one’s own comfort, time, money, or wellbeing. If you want to be happy this commandment says put **God first in everything**. All decisions, desires, and in all opportunities. God needs to be first, nothing can compromise this relationship if you want the most from this life.

It is important to note that all happiness, not only in the home but in the community and in the society, stems from this principle. When I truly put God first, then I find myself treating

others better. I find myself very much concerned about their, physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing.

Commitment to this principle sets the tone for all other relationships. When we are true to our God, and then true to ourselves, this leads us to be true to our wife and family and to our fellow man, which then will lead to happiness in all relationships. Some might think that simply by putting others first, it will achieve the same thing. But, the reality is that by simply putting others first usually ends in, as many of us have already experienced, an opportunity to be abused.

The thought to put people we think we love before our own happiness and even before God, in order to please them, is the beginning of volunteering for abuse. This will never work for two reasons:

First: true Love originates with God, so if you do not put Him first then you really cannot know what real love is. Your love will probably be something like Adams' love in the beginning. He was willing to die rather than to be separated from Eve. As soon as he chose to please Eve over God, he attempted to justify his disobedience of God by stating that it was the fault of the woman, and consequently the fault of God for creating the woman. Not much love there apart from God.

The second reason, is that God tells us to love others as we love ourselves. If you do not love yourself enough to look out for your basic needs and wishes, then it will be impossible for

you to know and understand, or respect the needs and wishes of others.

At this point I would like to ask a question: Which is more important love or respect? Many people will gladly give up respect in order to be loved. But love without respect is not love at all. It may be infatuation, or lust, or abuse but it is not love. If you sacrifice respect in order to be loved you will never be loved because you will never be respected. It is impossible to love someone you do not respect.

Another very good reason to put God first is that we often become like that which most influences us. The Bible says **“by beholding we become changed.”** In other words we become what we worship. If money is your god, than you would naturally want to see it grow and with its growth you would want more and more, and as the money increases you will give it more and more value. Your generosity will be greatly limited due to your love of money and your need to see it increase. Of course this in time will make you more self-centered and less concerned about the plight of your fellow man. If laziness and ease is your god, you will find yourself spending more time in front of the television, taking in its values and conforming to its norms, though they may be in direct contradiction to the word of God. This life will also lead to a self-centered life with little care or concern for those around you. I call them gods although none of these are God at all, the Bible would refer to them as Idols, much like the idols of wood, stone, gold and silver of the

Old Testament times. In the same respect when we worship God instead of idols then we become like Him. God describing himself to Moses stated in Exodus 34:6 **And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.** This of course is a description of God and I am not saying that we will have all the qualities of God at first when we start to worship, but as we grow in grace we will start to experience these very Graces, (attributes of God). There should be some children that see their parents as merciful and gracious, longsuffering and forgiving, good and always truthful. There should be wife's that see this in their husbands and husbands that see this in their wife's, friends that see this in each other. Neighbors and even community members that see it in each one of us that name the name of Christ. If this is not occurring then we may be worshiping God with our mouth, but surely not with our heart. We will need to take a hard look at what our lives are based on, what we are living for. We have to look to what we are dedicating most of our time to, our resources, and our energy, and this will give us a good idea of what is important to us, and what indeed we are truly worshiping. For what we worship is what we will become. I think the last reason for the motivation of putting God first is the freedom that we now have to do and to be. Many times these idols that we think are so important to us are the very things that are holding us back from all that God would have us experience. Take marriage for instance; this is a gift for humanity given straight

from the Garden of Eden. It was intended for the happiness and wellbeing of all members of the human family; father, mother, children. It is a place where we can develop our physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual qualities. But in many homes this does not happen because without thoughtful consideration we consider it more important to hold onto our pride, our ego, our need to be self-satisfied despite the concerns, or needs of others in the home. We do not consider that God who made us knows what is best for us and thereby has given us laws to ensure that if obeyed will bring us the happiness, peace and fulfillment that only he that has a rich life in Christ will experience. If you want to be happy, if you want to be holy, if you want to be healthy physically, mentally, emotionally, and spirituality then “Thou shalt have no other Gods before Me” and “Thou shalt Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, mind, soul, and strength.” My prayer for each one who reads this devotional is that you would take God at His word and experience all that he has provided for you. This peace and happiness is the foundation of life. Amen