

April 30, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

Mk. 12:30 *Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.* (NIV)

Living in the love of the LORD is what abundant life is really all about. When Jesus was pressed by the religious rulers of the day, to say which of the commandments was the most important, He answered it directly and succinctly. As we learn to walk in God's love, think in God's love, and respond in God's love, He continues to fill us with the compassion and strength to love others around us. But let's be clear; there is no way you can love others until you love Him in this way. Now here is the significant part of this passage. We are to love God and people with all of our heart and soul and mind and strength. The Greek word for *all* literally means *whole, complete, or entire*. In other words, there can be no 'holding back' of our love. Now you might think that loving God is way easier than loving people. After all, the LORD has done everything for us. But we are to love people in the same way that we love the LORD. This can only happen if we allow the life of the LORD to indwell us and lead us. And when we love like this, we are images of His love to them. In fact, Jesus put it this way in **Luke 6:27-35** *But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because He is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.* (NIV)

Dear LORD, let our love grow continuously as we abide in You. Help us not to hold back our love from You or from others. We must be people of love. We can only be Your ambassadors when we love like You love. In Jesus Name, Amen