

LOVE IS SUPREME IN GOD'S KINGDOM

Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Matthew 22:34-40; John 3:16

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I. Historical Background & Biblical Context

Love has always been and will always be supreme in God's Kingdom. This truth is evident in the creation of the universe in how everything was meticulously crafted, even man. The same truth is evident in the unfolding of God's Plan of Salvation. Since the fall of humanity to sin, love was present in the covenants established between God and His people. It reverberated through every call to judges, prophets, disciples, and leaders in their respective eras. Ultimately, love found its culmination in Jesus. The same truth is evident today as we witness God's love in our own lives. The same truth will manifest in the future as we anticipate the ultimate fulfillment of love foretold in the book of Revelation.

In the Bible, love is seen as the bedrock upon which the relationship between God and man is built upon. In Deuteronomy 6, as the Israelites stood on the brink of entering the Promised Land and received the ten commandments, Moses urged the people to wholeheartedly devote themselves to God. He specifically instructed them to obey God's commands and to love Him with all their heart, soul, and strength. Centuries later, Jesus echoed this when questioned about the greatest commandment in Matthew 22. He emphasized that our foremost duty is to love the Lord our God with our hearts, souls, and minds. Our secondary duty was to love our neighbors. In these concise yet powerful words, the connection is made between our love for God and our love for those around us.

The ultimate display of love unfolded when God, in an extraordinary act of love and compassion for us, sent His only Son, Jesus, to pay the price for our sins. This act of love served as the ultimate atonement for sin and provided redemption for humanity.

Jesus, driven by a selfless love, willingly gave His life to pave a pathway for us to reconcile with God and to grant eternal life to those who embrace His love.

II. The Lesson: LOVE IS SUPREME IN GOD'S KINGDOM (Deut. 6:4-9; Matt. 22:34-40; John 3:16)

As believers in Jesus Christ, we serve as ambassadors of God's Kingdom where love reigns supreme. When we say love is supreme, we mean that love holds the highest, most influential, and essential position in the kingdom of God. In fact, it is central and fundamental. In God's Kingdom, love is the strongest force, surpassing all others, and is the most important, powerful, transformative, and impactful.

As we talk about the supremacy of love within the kingdom of God, four key principles are revealed in these scriptures:

1. Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. (Deut. 6:5, Matt. 22:37-38)

Given in both Deuteronomy and Matthew, the command to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength is essential in God's Kingdom. The command calls for us to prioritize love and devotion to God above everything else. It is the foundational step that fuels every aspect of His Kingdom as it forms the basis of our relationship with Him.

Here, our call is to devote ourselves entirely to God. This means placing God at the core of our heart, mind, soul, and strength. Our heart holds emotional commitment. Our soul holds spiritual commitment. Our mind holds mental commitment. Our strength holds physical commitment. When love is at the root of it all, we are able to connect and align with God, seek understanding, and act and serve in the Kingdom of God.

2. Love is unifying.

(Matt. 22:39)

In this verse, God commands us to love to our neighbors as we do ourselves. To love God fully is to love our neighbors and loving our neighbors is a reflection of our love for God. Love shapes how we connect, communicate, and relate to those around us. When love is present, it shows through our kindness, compassion, and empathy. It is love that creates a bridge for us to connect and work together in unity. This type of connection with others would not be possible if love were not at the center and supreme in the kingdom of God.

3. Love is necessary to obey His commands.

(Duet 6:6-9, Matt. 22:40)

There is a connection between love and obedience. Love is the engine that fuel us to obey God's commands. Obedience, in turn, is the expression of our love for God. Our obedience does not stem from a force or obligation; rather, our obedience is a heartfelt response from love. When our love for God encompasses our hearts, souls, and minds, obedience flows naturally.

When Jesus stated that all the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments, this meant that love is the key that unlocks all commandments and the glue that ties everything together. Love is like the special ingredient that makes everything in God's kingdom function the way it's supposed to.

4. Love is God's nature.

(John 3:16)

This verse provides us with a glimpse into love as a part of God's nature. It says, "For God so **loved** the world that he gave His one and only Son". The fact that God gave His most precious gift, Jesus, is the ultimate demonstration of the depth of His love and the extent at which He was willing to go to express His love for us. This verse stands at the central of our faith and belief, as it emphasizes that love is supreme in the kingdom of God and His Plan of Salvation.

III. Conclusion

Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Matthew 22:34-40, and John 3:16 show us that love is supreme in God's Kingdom. As believers, we step into the role of ambassadors representing a Kingdom where love stands as the paramount, most influential, and most powerful force. It is the very essence of the God we worship. The foundational command to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength sets the tone for our relationship with Him and should penetrate every aspect of our being. This love, as revealed in these scriptures, serves as a force of unity and a necessary component in our obedience to His commands and in extending love to others. This is why **love is supreme in God's Kingdom!**