

EM Vision & Values

8/11 - School starts tomorrow!

3 Sermons:

1. Upward: Love God supremely
2. Inward: Love ourselves rightly
3. Outward: Love and serve others unconditionally

FCBC mission statement: We exist to make disciples who are compelled by the gospel to love God supremely, love one another humbly, and love the world sacrificially.

FCBCEM vision/mission statement: FCBC English Ministry is a multi-ethnic, multi-generational, mission-shaped ministry that exists to lead people to love God supremely (Upward), love ourselves rightly (Inward), and love and serve others unconditionally (Outward).

FCBCEM values:

- Get Holy. Worship God!
- Get Educated. Think Biblically!
- Get Boldness. Share Faith!
- Get Connected. Enjoy LIFE!
- Get a Towel. Wash Feet!

Upward: Love God Supremely

Loving God supremely was revealed to the Hebrews. The history of Israel is a failure to love God supremely. In the history of Israel we see the consequences of failing to love God supremely. The failure to love God supremely is called idolatry. If we don't love God supremely then it will be replaced with something else less satisfying and maybe even something destructive.

What did Jesus say about loving God? Jesus had a conversation with a rich man who wanted eternal life but couldn't love God supremely.

Read Luke 18:18-30.

What is the ruler asking when he asks, "What must I DO to inherit eternal life?" Or "What must I DO to receive eternal life as an inheritance?" You don't

really do anything to receive an inheritance other than be born into a family and it is passed on to you by relationship. The emphasis is on DO. Did he inherit or earn his wealth? If he *inherited* his wealth, then he thinks eternal life can be inherited like wealth. His Jewish heritage entitles him to inherit eternal life. If he *earned* his wealth, then he thinks eternal life can be earned by doing good, by keeping God's commands. The ruler isn't a youth, so he probably earned it. He may have used an inheritance to start a business, worked hard, and earned it.

Jesus doesn't answer his question first. Why does Jesus ask "Why do you call me good?" First, the rich ruler doesn't know what goodness is. He thinks he is good enough. There's *relative* goodness and *absolute* goodness. Relative goodness is comparing yourself to others. You may look good but it depends upon who you compare yourself to. (I look very good compared to an evil mass murderer. I don't look as good compared to Jesus Christ.) This is Psalm 14:1-3. Absolute goodness belongs to God. God is goodness. God is the absolute standard. This is Psalm 100:5. Second, Jesus wants the rich ruler to know who he is talking with. "No one is good except God alone." Jesus is saying, "If you call me good, then you must accept me as God; you must make me Lord of your life and all you own."

Psalm 14:1-3:

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds;
there is none who does good.

²The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man,
to see if there are any who understand,
who seek after God.

³They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt;
there is none who does good,
not even one.

Psalm 100:3: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Jesus mentioned 5 commandments: "You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.'" (*Show Exodus 20:1-17.*)

“All these I have kept from my youth.” He probably did keep the five Jesus mentioned. Jesus only mentioned 5 of the 10 commandments. He left out Exodus 20:17: “You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.” Jesus also left out the first 4 which are all about loving God supremely.

Jesus doesn't condemn him or call him a liar. (Ray Comfort's method of evangelism. Have you ever told a lie? That makes you a liar. Have you ever stolen anything? That makes you a thief. Have you ever spoken God's name as a curse? You're a blasphemer. Have you ever looked lustfully at a man or woman? You're an adulterer at heart.) I think Jesus knows he has made his best effort to keep these commands. But the rich ruler doesn't feel secure.

Jesus told him to sell everything, give the money to help the poor, to the Salvation Army, and follow him. Will selling everything earn the ruler eternal life? NO. Will following Jesus earn him eternal life? NO. It cannot be earned. God doesn't allow us to earn it. Our eternal life was earned by Christ! We receive eternal life as a gracious gift from the Father when we believe and obey his Son, Jesus Christ.

A lot of people are like this ruler. They don't know where they will go when they die. They don't have eternal security. They think they are probably good enough, but not sure. They don't know God's standard of goodness. They don't know how to know for sure.

So, the answer to the question (What must I do to inherit eternal life?) is “Love God - Father, Son, & HS - supremely.”

Loving God supremely is a lifestyle. We are always thinking about God. We don't just love God Sunday morning for 2 hours.

God spoke this to the Israelites: Deuteronomy 6:4-9. ⁴ *“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets*

between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

First commandment: Love God. Love from your heart. Teach it. Think about it all day. Get a tattoo that says, “Love God first.” Put “Love God first” posters up in your house. Wear a phylactery. (Head and arm phylacteries carry Deuteronomy 6:4-9.) *Picture of Jewish soldier.*

Unfortunately, Israel rejected YHWH as first love and worshiped idols.

Loving God supremely is living a life of obedience. Jesus said loving Him means obeying his commands: John 14:13-15: *“Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”*

Love one another and GO make disciples of all nations.

Obedience to these commands is not a burden. It’s joyful obedience! 1 John 5:2-3: *By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.* How do you know you are really a child of God? You love God and joyfully walk in his commandments.

Loving God supremely is healthy.

It is also trusting and fearing God. Proverbs 3:5-8: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.*

3:8 is an amazing promise (Amplified AMP version): *It will be health to your body [your marrow, your nerves, your sinews, your muscles—all your inner parts]. And refreshment (physical well-being) to your bones.*

Loving God supremely is eternal life.

I like watching romance movies. What happens when a man and a woman fall in love? It’s mysterious. It’s chemistry? It’s a combination of personality

and physical appearance. For Christians it's also a divine connection. **8/15 – 32 years married!**

Can we fall in love with Jesus Christ? When your mind knows and your heart embraces what Christ did for you, how could you not love him?

John 17:2-3: "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."

To receive the inheritance of eternal life you must be reborn into God's family. You cannot earn it by being good or keeping commandments. You must be born again. You must have a spiritual rebirth. Jesus said this to a very religious man who thought he was good enough. Read John 3:1-8.

Baptist churches are known for evangelism and discipleship. These activities will cease one day. Loving God supremely in worship is the one activity we will be doing forever. Loving God supremely is what we will be doing throughout our eternal life.

Read Revelation 22:3-5. The Revelation describes a new heaven and earth. It describes a river of life flowing from the throne of God. It is written, *"No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever."*