

# Kingdom-Covenant Mindset

## The Kingdom and the Covenant, Session 2.2

### Love for God

- The two most important godly character traits for us to develop are humility and agape, in that order
- We can't love God appropriately without first developing humility
  - How is that related to the statement, "Love the Giver, not the gift"?
  - How can we do that?
- 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."
  - "love" (Gk, *v*, *agapao*)
  - Agape causes you to consider others' welfare, needs, interests and desires more important than your own
  - Agape is necessary in covenant; covenant love is agape
- Mt 6:25-33
  - <sup>25</sup> "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? <sup>27</sup> Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?
  - <sup>28</sup> "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. <sup>29</sup> Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."
  - "seek" (Gk, *v*, *zeteo*): to try to get or reach something one desires
  - God's kingdom is an expression of what he does
  - His righteousness pertains to his integrity, in which he never deviates from his standards of extraordinary justice, mercy & virtue
  - God is our Father because he adopted us as his children & made us his covenant partners
  - As we learn to trust our Father, we can reject our self-centeredness with confidence that in covenant he will focus on our well-being – including our needs, interests & desires – and he'll fulfill them much, much better than we could ever imagine
  - In covenant, we focus on Father's kingdom & his nature; becoming like him so we can more effectively participate in what he does
- What kingdom responsibilities or obligations does our love for God impose on us?

- How must our love for God affect our thinking?
- How does this enable us to be more effective in his kingdom?
- How can we develop our love for God?

### Love for Others

- Mk 12:31, “The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”
  - “love” (Gk, v, *agapao*)
  - Mt 7:12, “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”
- Mt 5:44(a), “But I tell you: Love your enemies....”
  - “love” (Gk, v, *agapao*)
  - “enemy” (Gk, adj, *echthros*): (1) hatred toward; (2) in opposition to, hostile toward
  - What are some ways people might express hatred or hostility toward us as Christians?
  - What are some ways we might express agape to such people?
  - How would such expressions of agape properly represent God & his kingdom?
- Jn 13:34, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” (also, Jn 15:12)
  - “one another” refers to other believers, right?
  - “love” (Gk, v, *agapao*)
- What kingdom responsibilities or obligations does love for others impose on us?
- How must this affect our thinking?
  - I choose to see God’s image in every human being and stop viewing people from a worldly perspective
  - That person is God’s image & likeness, and God loved them so much he sent his Son to die for their sin; they just don’t know it or care
- How does love for others enable us to be more effective in God’s kingdom?
  - Mt 28:19(a), “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations....”
- How can we develop our love for others?

### Conclusions

- We can’t love God appropriately without first developing humility
- Agape causes you to consider others’ welfare, needs, interests and desires more important than your own
- As we learn to trust God our Father, we can reject our self-centeredness with confidence that in covenant he will focus on our well-being
- Love others
  - Do to others what you would have them do to you
  - Love your enemies
  - Love other believers as Jesus loved you