

Fundamentals of Faith - Forsaking all Others, Especially Me.

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. 1 John 4:7-12

The nature of a relationship determines the parameters for the love displayed in that relationship.

“...whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.” 1 John 4:8-8

9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, 1 John 4:9

God sent his only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:9-10

A life of agape and sacrifice on behalf of others gives evidence that we fully understand the nature of God's propitiation and embrace the sacrifice that it takes to live in that truth.

11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:11

15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. 2 Corinthians 5:15

Followers of Jesus don't wait for opportunities to serve others, we create them.

12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. 1 John 4:12

In marriage we forsake all others, but in relationship with God we forsake ourselves.

9 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. 10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Romans 12:9-10

To serve others first is to grow in Jesus and to put yourself first is to alienate yourself from Him.