

## **The Good Life**

*What is the essential business of life?*

1 Timothy 6:17-19; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 8-16-20

What is the essential business of life? What is it that unbelievers need to see in Christians in a post-Christian culture? – 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

In a word: love. Love is the answer. Love is the ‘good life.’

### **1. Love God.**

*Is 1 Timothy talking about love for God? Yes.* – Matthew 6:24

*What is love for God?*

To love God is to live to please Him and to be pleased with Him in believing response to His love in Jesus.

Key: live to please and live to be pleased – Matthew 22:35-40; 1 John 5:3

See God as an all-satisfying Fountain. *How do you please a (self-replenishing) fountain?* (Jeremiah 2:13)

Do what it says to do in order to drink and be satisfied.

### **2. Love people.**

*Is 1 Timothy talking about love for people? Yes.*

– Deuteronomy 10:18

*What is love for people?*

To love people is to do good to them and to desire their good even if it is not returned in believing response to His love in Jesus.

Key: do good and desire good

– Matthew 22:35-40; Luke 6:27-36

See people as plants. *How do you please a plant?* (Psalm 128:3)

Give them what they need to flourish.

### **3. Love life.**

*Is 1 Timothy talking about loving life? Yes. - Ecclesiastes 3:12-13; 5:18-19; 9:7-9*

*What is love for life?*

To love life is to receive everything from God's hand in thanksgiving for the gift and to trace everything back to His heart in worship of the Giver in believing response to His love in Jesus.

Key: thanksgiving and tracing

– 2 Corinthians 6:4b-10; 1 Corinthians 4:7; Job 2:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Ephesians 5:18-21

See all of life as a gift. *How do you receive a gift?* (Luke 17:15-18)

You honor the Giver and enjoy the gift.

#### **Believing in the Love of God**

We cannot love God or people or life as we should without believing in the love of God for us.

– 1 John 4:19; 3:16; 4:16

*What is love for the gospel?*

To love the gospel is to believe and receive the good news of God's love for us while seeing that love as being as great as His love for His Son, as fully committed to our holiness and our happiness, as unchanging as God Himself, and as ultimately consummated in the coming kingdom of heaven on earth, all by grace through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on our behalf.

As believers in Jesus, the love of God we need to believe in is a 'no matter what' love (or a 'nothing shall separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus' love – Romans 8) that can never increase nor end.

As unbelievers, the love of God we need to believe in is a 'come to Me and be saved' love (or a 'kindness that leads you to repentance' love – Romans 2) that is experienced in all the good things in this life and in the offer of the gospel, but will end come to an end for individuals if His love is not received by repentance and faith in Jesus.

Have you turned from your sin? Have you entrusted yourself to Jesus as Lord and Savior? Are you living to love God, love people and love life?