



380 S. ROSEMEAD BLVD  
PASADENA, CA 91107

WORSHIP TIME  
SUNDAYS  
9:45 AM  
HEART  
PREPARATION

1000 AM  
WORSHIP

## Discipleship starts with a SUPREME LOVE FOR GOD

*"For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; <sup>and</sup> A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD. "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it."*

*Matthew 10:35-39*

And He said to him, " 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' "

*Matthew 22:37*

Something to think about:

NO SUPREME LOVE OF GOD  
NO DISCIPLES, NO DISCIPLESHIP  
NO INTIMACY  
NO RESTED-NESS

*How do we love God  
with all our heart,  
and with all our soul  
and with all our mind?*

John 14:15

If you love Me,  
you will keep My  
commandments.

## God's love language is OBEDIENCE.

This is what God is requiring from us. This is embedded in the Great Commission and an integral part of Discipleship.

### Dgroup Schedules

Tuesdays  
700 pm  
1102 E Swanee Lane  
West Covina, CA

Thursdays  
730 pm  
2617 N Parish Place  
Burbank, CA

Fridays  
700 pm  
5124 Ashworth St  
Lakewood, CA

We often think that God's commandments are too hard, even impossible! But it only becomes difficult if we believe that we have more to lose than to gain. But God wants us to obey — even if we believe that His commandments are irrational, illogical or unjust. **God commands us to obey by faith.**

John 14:21

He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me, and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose

What are some of the things that God has commanded that we have difficulties with?

1. Forgiving others especially if we feel that we have been wronged
2. Submitting to authority at work, submitting to our husbands
3. To be more loving, more encouraging towards our spouses
4. To be more respectful and honoring to our parents
5. To tithe, to share our blessings

God does not give us these commands in order to make it difficult for us. He gives us

These commands so that we can become better persons. By commanding us to obey Him, He is giving us the basis for which we can revolve our lives around. The principles by which we can live by. He is in fact giving us a means by which we can please Him. When we obey God, we take the way of wisdom because His blessings for obedience far outweigh any possible consequences of not conforming to the world.

*Partial Obedience is disobedience*

*Delayed obedience is disobedience.*

Often times, we opt to compromise in our obedience. But we must remember that God will not bend down to us to please our compromises, rather it is us who must reach out to Him to partake in His Holiness.

God commands us to obey Him in **everything**. To be discipled is a commandment and we are required to obey.

What are some things that can hinder us from obeying God?

1. Lack of intimacy with God
2. Having other gods such as
  - A. money
  - B. self
  - C. other people
  - D. power

*In Matthew 10:35-39 and in Luke 14:26, Jesus challenges us by raising the bar. He wants us to be set apart even from our own family, set apart by loving God above everything. Our love for God must be so great that it would look like our love for our family is hatred. This means that our love for God should surpass even our love for our own family.*

- \* Supreme love for God is about pleasing God. . . Pleasing God by OBEYING all his commandments.
- \* The sad truth is that we don't always obey God. Often only obeying when it is convenient to us. . . Obeying on our own terms and conditions.
- \* We do this because we do not understand His kind of love.
- \* When a person understand his sinfulness and God's holiness . . . And how God's loving solution can overcome that sinfulness — this will result in a tremendous gratitude and a supreme love for God.

To understand God's love, we have to look at it in three aspects:

1. anthropology — Man's sinfulness and its consequence which is death
2. Soteriology — man's need for salvation from sin
3. Christology—man's only salvation: JESUS CHRIST

**John 3:16**

*For God so loved the world,  
that He gave His only be-  
gotten Son, that whoever be-  
lieves in Him shall not perish  
but have eternal life.*

**This is God's love: AGAPE**

**It is selfless and unconditional.**

This is how we must love God — selflessly and unconditionally.

This starts from believing in Christ for our salvation, then we become born again. . . We must continue to grow in order to be transformed to become selfless and to have an unconditional love just like Jesus.

This is what will please God.

**We must always bear these in mind:**

- \* **He is the Sovereign Almighty God who made me and who loves me. Who has great plans for me.**
- \* **He knows my sins will condemn and destroy me and that I need a Savior because I am powerless to save myself.**
- \* **In order to save me, He sent me His only Son — my Savior who died for me so that I can be freed from the bondage of my sins.**
- \* **The only thing He wants from me is for me love Him. To obey His commandments. To surrender my life to His will.**

Discussion:

1. Discussion the difference between God's love (AGAPE) and the world's love.
2. How have you experienced God's love in your life? Have you experienced His grace?
3. What are the tensions/ struggles you usually experience in obeying God?
4. Is there an area of your life where you are still struggling to obey God? Be specific.
5. Can you honestly say that you are now saved and are being transformed?

Let us continue to pray for one another as we take up the challenge to OBEY God in everything. To follow His commandments and to love only Him. Let us hold each other accountable for resolutions that the Holy Spirit is asking us to commit to as we strive to please our great God.

## Friendship with a Vision

- \* Pursuing intimacy with God delights God. And when God is delighted with us, we will experience His presence in our life.
- \* In His presence, we are protected and provided for thus making us distinguished. Setting us apart for His purpose.
- \* His purpose for us is Relationship. A relationship with Him and a relationship with others who also have been distinguished and set apart. This is Friendship with a Vision.
- \* DISCIPLESHIP is our marching order. To be disciple and to disciple.
- \* What is discipleship? It is the process of bringing people to Jesus Christ (**BELIEVE**) and building them up (**GROW**) in the faith towards Christ-likeness (**DISCIPLE**), for the purpose of spiritual multiplication (**MULTIPLY**) resulting in the glory of God.

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

### 4 Pillars towards Christ-likeness

1. Supreme love for God (Matthew 10:37-40)
2. Study and Devotion to God's Word (John 8:31)
3. Denial of Self towards God and towards man (Mark 8:34)
4. Reflection of Christ-like love towards others (Matthew 22:39)

## WORKS

Heart Check: In John 21, we hear Jesus asking Peter if he loves Him. He is now asking us. . . .

Your name, do you love Me? Your name do you love Me more than these? And He asks for the third time Your name, do you love Me?

Jesus commands us to love God with all of heart, with all our soul, with all our mind and with all our strength. What does this mean?

To love God with all our heart is to make Him our **first love**. The heart being the very center of life, controls us. So whatever is in our heart controls us. Jesus is asking us to put Him in the very center of our life, to allow Him to be in control.

To love God with our soul is to find ways to have a deep and personal relationship with Him. To make Him our **real love**. Jesus is asking us to really be fully engaged with Him, so that our love for Him will overcome our love for the world.

To love God with all our mind is to make Him our **true love**. To have a knowledge and understanding of who He is and His ways. He wants us to love Him not with just our emotions but with our intellect as well. Jesus is asking us to surrender our plans to Him and align ourselves to His will.

To love God with all our strength is to give Him **full love**. Full love is an expression of total surrender and abandonment and of trust. To give Him our heart, our soul, our mind. . . Our life experiences, our struggles, our pains. . . Everything that is in us. . . To surrender to Him in OBEDIENCE because we are grateful for His love. To love Him in AGAPE, as He has loved us. To allow ourselves to be molded and trimmed through His word, through discipleship as we fulfill His marching order in the Great Commandment. To allow ourselves to become instruments of His blessings and His love to those who do not yet know Him.

Are we ready to take up the challenge of OBEDIENCE?