

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

1. In order to build anything that will last, we know that a solid foundation is necessary. (See Matthew 7:24-27)
This is true not only in the physical realm (as we saw in the pictures on Sunday), but also in the spiritual realm.
Over the course of this three week series, we'll be looking at the core values of our church:
Love God, Love Others, & Transform the World Through Christ
At the beginning of the sermon, I mentioned "Love God" is the foundational truth for all of them.
Why is this the case, and how do we see this reality at work in our lives?
2. Our main text for the morning was *The Shema* (Deuteronomy 6:4-9) one of the regularly recited passages for the Israelites.
As you look at this text, what would the value be of reciting this passage daily?
On the flip side of that, what could be the pitfalls of reciting this passage daily?
(think about Jesus "woes" to the Pharisees recorded in Matthew 23)
How can we safeguard ourselves from falling into the same traps as the Pharisees?
How can a passage like this one help us to grow and better shape our perspective?
3. In Matthew 22:36-40, Jesus clarifies that this is the greatest commandment, and the second is like it (loving others well)
Then he says, "On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."
What exactly does this mean?
How does a genuine love for God better shape our perspective in this life?
How does it impact our view of God's law and other commands?
How does it shape our desires & our ability to love others?
How does it change our view of sin?
4. The command to love God with all we are is so important - how do you feel we're doing at obeying this command in our lives?
Corporately - as The Church (and New Hope Specifically)?
Individually - in your life, personally?
How does the gospel of Jesus Christ change everything for us even in this regard?
Look at Phil. 1:6 if you're struggling with this or feeling discouraged because you aren't loving God perfectly.
5. In this passage, it's clear that our love for God is really to be all-consuming in our lives - the number one priority for us!
This reveals the need to be intentional to cultivate a deeper love for God in our lives
(we won't naturally drift toward a deeper love for God in our lives)
What are some tangible and practical ways you can work to grow a deeper love for God?
Will you commit to prioritizing your relationship with Him by implementing some of those items?
What can you do to ensure that this is sustainable in your life?

6. Below are the "So What?" statements from the end of the sermon.

Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, and if so, how?

1. What consumes my time, thoughts, & desires?
2. Love is the right response to God's love for us!
3. Loving God leads to a better life!
4. Loving God requires intentionality on our part!
5. Love for God is the foundation of all true love!