

What is the most important thing in life to you right now?

Mark 12:28-31 CSB – One of the scribes approached. When he heard them debating and saw that Jesus answered them well, he asked him, “Which command is the most important of all?” 29 Jesus answered, “The most important is Listen, Israel! The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. 31 The second is, Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other command greater than these.”

## 1) Love is a Decision.

“We must be compassionate while at the same time being righteous. If you’re compassionate and you’re just feeling sorry for folk, you might be unrighteous in what you do. But if you are righteous, living by a standard, but do it without a heart, you tell the truth and are ice cold in the process. But when you’re compassionate and righteous, people know you care but they know you have a standard in your care, you’re going to call wrong, wrong, and you’re going to call right, right. But you’re seeking their good in the decision. You love them whether or not they know you love them.” – Tony Evans

## 2) Love is Demonstrated.

Luke 10:25-29 CSB – Then an expert in the law stood up to test him, saying, “Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 26 “What is written in the law?” he asked him. “How do you read it?” 27 He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,” and “your neighbor as yourself.” 28 “You’ve answered correctly,” he told him. “Do this and you will live.” 29 But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Neighbor = Nearest One.

Someone is divorced every 36 seconds in America. There are 876,000 divorces per year in America.

Marriage is the only game where both players can win.

Genesis 2:22-23 NKJV

The first poem in the Bible is found in Genesis 2:23. “Now, at length, I have obtained a suitable companion, who is part of the substance of my flesh, and in whom I behold, as it were, another self.” – John Calvin

There are three aspects of marriage:

Leaving – Marriage begins by severing one relationship in order to solidify another relationship.

Cleaving – Marriage requires a deep, determined commitment of permanence.

Weaving – “And they shall become one” – the becoming takes a lifetime; it is not instantaneous.

## Some Practical Steps To A Healthy Marriage:

### 1) Communication is the Cornerstone of a Healthy Marriage.

Revelation of an Issue + Repentance of the Couple = Restoration of the Marriage

Marriage doesn’t dissolve overnight. It is a slow fade of inattention to the person you made a covenant with before God.

When you grow up without healthy examples of love, the work is to learn how to love yourself, first.

The invisible epidemic is a society of adults in arrested development. Children walking around in adult bodies looking for the love they never got from a parent.

### 2) Find Ways To Display Our Love For Our Wives or Husbands.

The emotional investment of growing with a partner long-term is one of the most beautiful life experiences. Let me give you some reasons why.

### 3) Date your spouse.

Some of us have better conversations with our coworkers about work than we do with our spouses about our life.

Ladies: your man needs constant encouragement from you.

Men: the best way you can demonstrate to your children that Jesus is real is to love their mom.

Dialogue Daily – Date Monthly – Depart Yearly

Satan wants nothing more than to kill, steal, and destroy the family and marriage because if he destroys the family, he attacks the gospel.

**WELCOME! OUR STRATEGY AT DPC: GATHER (GATHERINGS),  
GROUP (CONNECT GROUPS), GROW (GROWTH PHASES),  
GIVE (GIVING/GIFTING TEAMS, GO (OUTREACH)**

**SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY- 9A + 11A FIRST COMES LOVE, THEN COMES BAGGAGE**

It's no secret, when we get married, we carry some pretty heavy baggage into the new established relationship. This series lays out the biblical vision for marriage, relationships, sex, and gender. We focus on all stages of life - whether single, in a dating relationship, married, or divorced - and will cast a vision for marriage that goes beyond simply surviving.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24 - SUNDAY FEBRUARY 26 - FAMILY WEEKEND**

Friday, February 24 - Movie Night - 7-9pm - Bring your family out for a night at the movies! We will be starting the movie "UP" at 7:15pm. Bring some blankets and pillows for optimum movie watching!

Saturday, February 25 - Family Olympics - Dupree Park - 1-3p - This is going to be the best day ever! Olympic games for families to participate in - from human ring toss to fly swatter golf to water frisbee fill. Don't miss it!

Sunday, February 26 - Family Sunday - 9a & 11a - Our next generation ministries will lead us in worship!

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19 - SPRING 2023 CONNECT GROUPS**

Connect Group will be meeting all over the community this day! We would love for you to get plugged into a group and experience transformation through genuine relationships with other believers. Visit the Next Steps table for more information!

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16 - 7P - 9P - NIGHT SIX OF OUR WINTER SESSION OF GROWTH PHASES**

Join us for the sixth night of our winter session of Growth Phases. We can't wait to see all the Lord will do in and through your life this session!

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19 - 9A & 11A WATER BAPTISM SUNDAY**

We will have Water Baptisms this Sunday! If you are interested in getting water baptized, please connect with our Next Steps team in the lobby!

**DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN GIVE VIA TEXT?**

Just text any dollar amount to 84321 to give. You will follow a quick, self-guided setup process to tie your mobile phone to our church, your donor account, and a payment source. After that, donating is as easy as sending a text!

**BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY IN THE UPCOMING WEEKS!**