

Eastern Mission
Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

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Love & Obedience

Deuteronomy 10:12 Now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, What is it to love the Lord and to serve Him. Remember the Lawyer who tempted Jesus by asking Him what shall I do to inherit eternal Life? **Luke 10:26-28** 26. He (Jesus) said unto him, What is written in the law? How readest thou? 27. And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and thy neighbour as thyself. 28. And he (Jesus) said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do and thou shalt live. Now we see what is required of us if we are going to be obedient to God's word and please Him. The word also teaches that loving our neighbor isn't just think good thoughts of him, or only remembering those in need with prayer, which is very necessary, but according to the word we are to be doers of the word not only hearers. **James 2: 22-25** But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. 23. for if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24. For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 25. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

So how is it with us when it comes to loving God and our neighbor, or serving God and our neighbor? And how much do we have to love and serve? The word says with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind, and then Jesus says love thy neighbor as much as you love thy self. Therefore, let us not use our liberty we have in Christ to say Christ is the only one that is able to be the true doer and fulfiller of God's will and commandments, which is true. But we as His children should desire to love and do the will of the Father as Jesus has and gave his life for us on the cross.

Let us then strive to love God with all our being, and our neighbor as ourselves, and be not only hearers of the word only but doers. Not doers of the word to be saved but doers of the word because we are saved. And in our being obedient and doers of God's will, we will see clearly how we fall so short of the perfection that is required of God, and then God's grace through faith in Christ will be magnified in us. And we will become so in love with Him as we grow knowing just how much Jesus loved us and continues to love and forgive us. He that is forgiven much loveth much. What a great God we have.

God's peace,
Ken Matson