

LOVE GOD, EQUIP BELIEVERS

Matthew 22:37-38; Ephesians 4:11-16

Introduction: Cornerstone's mission is contained in four letters: L.E.A.D. Today, I would like to take the first two letters in our mission acrostic.

1. Love God
2. Equip believers
3. Answer God's call
4. Declare the Good News

How did LOVE GOD become the first priority in Cornerstone's mission?

Why is LOVING GOD the highest of all mission priorities for us?

1. LOVING GOD is the greatest commandment we will ever obey. ***Matthew 22:34-40***
2. LOVING GOD is the highest motivation for your life. ***1 Corinthians 13:1-3***

How do I love God?

1. Make God number one...my highest priority, my greatest value and my deepest and dearest friend. ***Revelation 2:2-4***
2. Reverence and respect God as God. ***Hebrews 12:28***
3. Respond to God's love in three ways.
 - a. Always pursue God. ***Psalms 61:1***
 - b. Always trust God. ***Proverbs 3:6***
 - c. Always obey God. ***John 14:21***

What are some evidences that we are truly loving God?

1. Loving God transforms us into the likeness of Christ. ***2 Corinthians 3:18***

2. Loving God inspires us to worship God. ***Psalm 48:9***
3. Love motivates us to make God's mission in the world our personal mission. ***Matthew 28:19-20***
4. Love empowers us to love other people with the same love we have received from God.
John 13:34-35

In **L.E.A.D.** the second letter stands for **E**quip Believers.

The mission of Cornerstone is to equip every believer to serve God. *Ephesians 4:11-12*

1. God's plan: God wants you to be spiritually equipped.
2. God's method: God has chosen certain gifted men to equip His body.
3. God's intended outcome: God's plan is that every believer serve or work in the ministry.

What is the goal of equipping the saints? *Ephesians 4:13, ...until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.*

God's three basic equipping tools:

First tool: the Bible - ***2 Timothy 3:16-17***

Second tool: Prayer – ***Colossians 4:12***

Third tool: Trials – ***James 1:2-4***

Conclusion: What happens if you refuse to get equipped? *Ephesians 4:14, ...so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.*