



"Love the Lord Your God with All Your SOUL!"

Love God ~ Love One Another (Part 3)

Go for God!

Text: Matthew 22:37-40 - *But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"*

Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment.*

And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."*

> There are 7 keys to "loving God with all your SOUL":
(The word "SOUL" is found 321 times in the Bible.)

- Key #1 - Your Soul has LIFE!

The SOUL is that which makes a human or animal body alive. The usage of the word soul refers to life in the physical body. This idea is also present in the Old Testament. For example, the soul of a dying person departed at death (**Gen 19:20** – (Lot said) *"See now, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one; please let me escape there and **my soul shall live.**"*

Genesis 35:18 - *And as her soul was departing (for she was dying), she called his name Benoni; but his father called him Benjamin.)*

The prophet Elijah brought a child back to life by stretching himself upon the child three times and praying that God would let the child's soul come back into him (1 Kings 17:19-23).

- Key #2 - Your Soul has PERSONALITY!

The word soul also refers to the inner life of man, the seat of his emotions, and the center of human personality.

The first use of the word soul in the Old Testament expresses this meaning: *"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being (soul)"* (Gen 2:7).

This means more than being given physical life; the biblical writer declares that man became a "living soul," or a person, a human being, one distinct from all other animals.

- Key #3 - Your Soul has EMOTIONS and DESIRES!

The soul is described as the seat of many emotions and desires: the desire for food (Deut 12:20-21), **love** (Song 1:7), **longing for God** (Ps 63:1 - *O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water.*), **rejoicing** (Ps 86:4 - *Bring joy to your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.*), **knowing** (Ps 139:14), and **memory** (Lam 3:20).

Moses wrote to the children of Israel in **Deuteronomy 4:27** - *But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.* In the New Testament, Mary, the mother of Jesus, proclaimed that her soul **"magnifies the Lord"** (Luke 1:46). Jesus spoke of his soul as being **"exceedingly sorrowful"** (Matt 26:38).

- Key #4 - Your Soul is UNIQUE!

Our soul is different from the heart - Deuteronomy 26:16 - *"This day the LORD your God commands you to do these statutes and rules. You shall therefore be careful to do them with all your heart and with all your soul."*

Deuteronomy 30:6 - *And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.*

As well as the spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 4:12) **and the mind** (Matt. 22:37; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27).

- Key #5 - Your Soul is ETERNAL!

The SOUL departs at death (Gen 35:18; Jer 15:2). Hence, the desire among Old Testament saints to be delivered from Sheol (Ps 16:10, *"Thou wilt not leave my soul to Sheol"*) and from shachath, "the pit" (Job 33:18, *"He keepeth back his soul from the pit"*; Isa 38:17, *"Thou hast delivered it (my soul) from the pit of corruption"*).

The human soul needs atonement (**Leviticus 17:11**- *For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.*)

- Key #6 - Your Soul needs JESUS!

Jesus is the great Shepherd of our souls (1 Peter 2:25 - *For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*)

- Jesus gives us "SOUL" lessons in: **Matthew 10:27-39; Matthew 16:24-27; Luke 12:13-21.**

- Key #7 - Your Soul needs PROSPER!

John prayed that Gaius would "prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers" (3 John 2).

> **Let's prosper our SOULS:**

- **Through SOUL WORSHIP from the Psalms:**

Ps 35:9 - *And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD; it shall rejoice in His salvation.*

Ps 41:4 - *I said, "LORD, be merciful to me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against You."*

Ps 42:1-2 - *As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.*

Ps 71:23 - *My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing to You, and my soul, which You have redeemed.* (Read Psalms 103 and 104 this week!)

- **Let's eat some SOUL FOOD:**

Psalms 19:7 - *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;*

Hebrews 4:12 - *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

James 1:21 - *Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.*

1 Peter 1:22 - *Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,*

- Question - What about SOUL-MATES?

Les Parrott in his book, "*Becoming Soul Mates*" writes, "The idea of a "soul mate" is that for every person there is another person who is a "perfect fit," and if you marry anyone other than this soul mate, you will never be happy. This idea of soul mates goes way back to the teachings of Plato in the 3rd century.

But does the Bible say anything about soul mates? Fantastic and romantic as it is, having a soul mate is not a biblical idea. For centuries, people have been using the soul mate idea as grounds to break up or even divorce. A person becomes unhappy in a relationship, then claims they are obviously not with "the one" and should therefore break up.

At that point, they feel they can justify the search for their "true" soul mate. Sorry, people, but that's nothing more than an excuse—a pretty blatantly unbiblical one, too. If you are married, the person you are married to is your soul mate.

Mark 10:7-9 declares, *"A man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."*

A husband and wife are "united," "one flesh," "no longer two, but one," and "joined together," i.e., "soul mates." (Ephesians 5:18-33)

- Are you a SOUL-WINNER?

Acts 2:41 - *Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.*

James 5:19-20 - *Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.*

> Let's conclude with some SOUL SATISFACTION!

1 Thessalonians 5:23 - *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*