



## HCF Core Values

### A High View of God

**A High View of God** - We value God far above everything for He is the most worthy and valuable being that exists. It is imperative to see Him as He really is, the Creator of everything and paragon of all virtue, the Almighty God. It is our utmost desire to glorify God by pursuing a *high view of God*. To know God and to love Him is the all-consuming passion of our lives. The continual proclamation of His character and nature is a fundamental element in our worship. In fact this is the definition of worship, to ascribe worth to God and to see, comprehend, experience and exalt the glory of God.

**To know God and to love Him is the all-consuming passion of our lives** – Having discussed the fact that we were created by God, and this for His purposes, it becomes evident that we have a specific role in God’s creation to fulfill. This is the great purpose of life which God Himself has defined for us, having made us for this very reason. Therefore one might ask, what purpose is it for which I was made? Or, what is my purpose for existence and how has God defined the priority of my life? This can be clearly seen in 1 John.....

**1 John 5:20** - 20 And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding, **in order that we might know Him** who is true, and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. NASB

Here the scripture declares that Christ has come and given understanding **“in order that we may know Him.”** Here we see that we exist to know God, and this John says, **“is eternal life.”** To know God **IS** eternal life!

**John 17:3** - 3 "And **this is eternal life, that they may know Thee**, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent. NASB

In other words, God is the source of life and to know Him is to be connected to Him in such a way as to be tapped into His life, which by nature is eternal. This is to say that the quality of God’s kind of life is eternal, it lasts forever, and we who know Him become mutual partakers in this everlasting life. A quote from Albert Barnes expands on the word **“KNOW”** here in John 17:3.....

*“The word know here, as in other places, expresses more than a mere speculative acquaintance with the character and perfections of God. It includes all the impressions on the mind and life which a just view of God and of the Savior is fitted to produce. **It includes, of course, love, reverence, obedience, honor, gratitude, supreme affection.** To know God as He is, is to know and regard him as a lawgiver, a sovereign, a parent, a friend. It is to yield the whole soul to him, and to strive to obey His law...”*

Therefore to know God is to live! It is to enjoy that highest quality of Life and experience fulfillment to the utmost capacity. This is why we were made. It is to see and enjoy all of

God's wonderful virtue and to praise the glory of His name and savor and experience the enjoyment of Him.

A quote from Pastor John Piper expresses this value of ours very clearly;

*"We love God. He is our great Treasure, and nothing can compare with him. One of the great old catechisms says, "God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth." That is the One we love. We love the whole panorama of his perfections. To know him and to be loved by him is the end of our soul's quest for eternal satisfaction. He is infinite; and that answers to our longing for completeness. He is eternal; and that answers to our longing for permanence He is unchangeable; and that answers to our longing for stability and security. There is none like God. Nothing can compare with him. Money, sex, power, popularity, conquest - nothing can compare with God. The more you know him, the more you want to know him. The more you feast on his fellowship, the hungrier you are for deeper, richer communion."*

In contrast to "knowing God and enjoying Him" we see that those "**who do not know God**" will be the subjects of His vengeance and shut out from His presence.

**2 Thessalonians 1:8-10** - 8 **dealing out retribution to those who do not know God** and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed NASB

The person who does not know God is not connected to the life of God and is indeed perishing, they are dead in trespasses and sins (Eph 2:1). This is more biblical evidence that the priority of life is to know God and obey Him. In fact, knowing God is inextricably tied to obeying God. As the scripture declares....

**1 John 2:3-6** - 3 And **by this we know that we have come to know Him**, if we keep His commandments. 4 **The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;** 5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: 6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked. NASB

Therefore if we know God, we will keep or obey His commandments and His love and divine character will be perfected in us. This IS eternal life, to become mutual partakers in the life of God by knowing Him.

**Jeremiah 9:23-24** - 23 Thus says the LORD, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; 24 but let him who boasts boast of this, **that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD** who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD. NASB

Let us therefore press on to know the Lord as Hosea exhorts us.....

**Hosea 6:3** - 3 "So let us know, **let us press on to know the LORD**. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; And He will come to us like the rain, Like the spring rain watering the earth." NASB

This value of ours could further be described by idea of loving God. This Jesus says is the great commandment.....

**Matthew 22:36-40** - 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 And He said to him, "**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.**" 38 "**This is the great and foremost commandment.**" 39 "The second is like

it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets." NASB

This, says the Lord, is the **“great and foremost commandment.”** In other words, this is what is **MOST** important in life, the main thing, the first thing, the great thing, the foremost thing, the thing which is front and above all others. Jesus says **“On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”** The entire Old Testament, all 39 books, all 929 chapters, 23,214 verses, all 590,439 words says Jesus **“depend on these two commandments.”**

**Mark 12:33** - 33 and to love Him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as himself, **is much more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.** " NASB

Much more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices, more important than all our religious endeavors, more important than anything else in all the world, is this foremost commandment. What then is this first priority?, it is to LOVE GOD. To love God says Jesus, is the reason why we were made. In fact Jesus shows the importance of this in many ways as in Luke 14....

**Luke 14:25-27** - 25 Now great multitudes were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, 26 **"If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.** 27

"Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. NASB

There will be no rivals in God's kingdom for His esteem and devotion. Jesus says unless He is more important than everything you have, including your family and even your own life, you CANNOT be His disciple! This is why the commandment states, you shall love the Lord your God **“with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength”** This means that we are to love God with everything that is within us. It means we are to devote to Him everything we own and every part of our life.

- **with all your heart** - this speaks of our emotions, our inner being is to wholly devoted to God with strong affection
- **with all your soul** - This means, to love God more than our life, to be willing to give up your life to him, and to devote it all to his service; to live to him, and to be willing to die at his command.
- **with all your mind** - We are to love God with our intellect, with all the powers of our mind, bringing memory, thought, imagination, reason, judgment, and all our mental powers, as willing subjects to bow at God's feet in adoration and love. To love His Word and His gospel more than we do the vain thoughts of our own minds, the entertainment, comedy and communications of the world, and to give firstfruits of our time unto the meditation and worship of God.
- **with all your strength** - with all the faculties of soul and body. To labor and toil for his glory, and to make that the great object of ALL our efforts.

Therefore if we value God because He is supremely valuable, then we must love Him with a wholehearted devotion which manifests the true love that we do have for Him. Good Christian, can we look at your life and see the evidence of your love for God? Or is something in your life competing with Him for your love and devotion? Only when we come to love God with our whole being will we be truly satisfied. Only then will we be content and fulfilled! This is the purpose for which we were made.

**Deuteronomy 10:12-14** - 12 "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but **to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,** 13 **and to keep the LORD'S commandments** and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good? NASB