

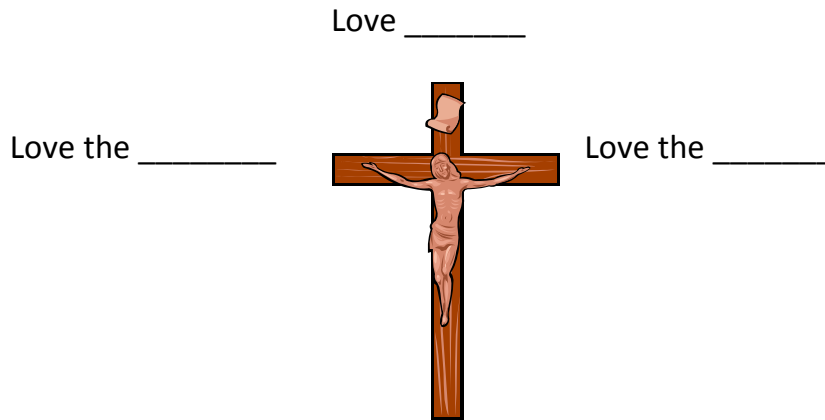
#9: Miracle Grow: Understanding God’s Will

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. Ephesians 5:15-17 NIV

God’s general will starts with love.

One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD. And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.” Mark 12:28–31, NLT

GOD’S GENERAL WILL: LOVE



LOVE GOD

You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created everything, and it is for your pleasure that they exist and were created. Revelation 4:11, NLT

LOVE THE SAVED

This means being devoted to a local church.

It is clear that it is God's will that every Christian be devoted to a local church that is fulfilling the basic purposes of a church. There are six experiences or purposes that a local church is to provide Christians.

1. Teaching
2. Worship
3. Fellowship
4. Ministry
5. Mission
6. Prayer

LOVE THE LOST

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18–20, NIV

How can we know this commission directly applies to us and not just to the disciples?

What are the activities Jesus wants His people to be doing?

1. Go.
2. Make disciples.
3. Baptize new disciples.
4. Teach disciples to obey.

This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. 1 Timothy 2:3–4, NLT

Your response this week:

1. How can I love God more?
2. How can I love the saved more?
3. How can I love the lost more?
4. Share this lesson with someone who needs to hear it.