

# **It's All About Love**

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As many of you know, this year has been a tough one for me, and it is not 2008 but my 46 because exactly the day of my birthday in June 25, I was sued and I'm still in the middle of a legal battle with lawyers, judges, etc and, a key word today, neighbors. The financial problems have affected the Real Estate business. And recently, I lost my job. As I always say:

**1 Rodolfo 1:1  
"God is never wrong"**

As I say every time that I am in trouble:

**1 Rodolfo 1:2  
"I have absolutely no doubts that my God will deliver me from this situation, but I wonder how!"**

Anyway, the thing is that I started reading a book called The Purpose Driven Life two and a half years after they gave it to me as a birthday present and a couple of days before loosing my job. For those who have not read it, the book has 40 chapters that you are supposed to read one per day, no more, no less. Like the 40 days Moses was in mount Sinai, like the 40 days Jesus was tempted, etc. a 40 day process. When I started, one chapter was too much because I had no time. After I lost my job, one chapter was too little. However I was very respectful and kept it in one a day until I was completely stopped by this paragraph:

**"We are like jewels, shaped with the hammer and chisel of adversity. If a jeweler's hammer isn't strong enough to chip off our rough edges, God will use a sledgehammer. If we're really stubborn, he uses a jackhammer. He will use whatever it takes."**

Oh oh. This one struck hard on me, I said Ok, now I am worried! Especially when God is never wrong! What am I not getting? And is it still the jeweler's hammer, because I don't want to feel a sledgehammer, much less a jackhammer. What is wrong? What is the stubborn rough edge? Because this is going to worsen rather than improve, until something changes, what can it be?

So in addition to lots of praying for understanding, I started to look for answers in the bible. The first place was Exodus 20, the 10 commandments, which I knew well, but I read and read again. I had never realized that it is mostly prohibitions, menacing, warnings and consequences, the exceptions being:

**Exodus 20:1a**  
**"I am the Lord your God"**

and

**Exodus 20:8**  
**"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy"**

and

**Exodus 20:12**  
**"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you"**

The answer I was looking for was not there, so the search continued, and a day passed without chapter, and another, and another...lots of reading but I was stuck in the middle of chapter 25, I just could not go on because nothing made sense if a larger hammer was on its way!

In my search I found Christ's resumed version of the commandments, described in positive terms, as he came to change the law for the grace:

**Matthew 22:36-40**  
**"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."***

By the way, God did not call them the ten "suggestions" and Jesus did not call them the two "suggestions".

Then I found an even shorter version:

**Galatians 5:14**

**"For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this:  
You shall love your neighbor as yourself."**

Then I realized that he spoke about a one-word-law:

**Galatians 5:14a**

**"For all the law is fulfilled in one word..."**

So all the whole law is now down to one word:

**Love**

Life is all about love, my dear brothers and sisters, all about LOVE.

And what is love? How can we define it? If we ask Wikipedia, this is what you get

**Love is any of a number of [emotions](#) and experiences related to a sense of strong [affection](#).<sup>[1]</sup> The word *love* can refer to a variety of different feelings, states, and attitudes, ranging from generic [pleasure](#) ("I loved that meal") to intense [interpersonal attraction](#) ("I love my girlfriend"). This diversity of meanings, combined with the complexity of the feelings involved, makes love unusually difficult to consistently define, even compared to other emotional states.**

Such is the wisdom of mankind...  
Now I'm really lost! It sounds to me as clear as...

**"Darling, I love you. I'd climb the highest mountain for you; I'd swim the deepest stream for you; I'd fight a jungle of lions for you; and if it doesn't rain, I'll be over to see you tonight.**

How about some famous quotes?

**To love deeply in one direction makes us more loving in all others. Anne-Sophie Swetchine**

**To fear love is to fear life, and those who fear life are already three parts dead. Bertrand Russell**

**The meeting of two personalities is like the contact of two chemical substances: if there is any reaction, both are transformed. Carl Jung**

**Nothing takes the taste out of peanut butter quite like unrequited love. Charles M. Schulz**

I'm lost again, lets see what the Word says about it.

**2 John 1:6**

**"This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning you should walk in it."**

Which takes us back to the one-commandment-law.

**Galatians 5:14**

**"For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."**

Or better yet:

**Galatians 5:14b**  
**“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”**

Now I get it, Its not about me, that is the rough edge, the stubborn one...self love, like in this message, I've been talking about myself. But finding it is just the beginning.

As a first step, the rest of the message is not my words, but yours, not in my order but He's and all about love, except this ear and heart opener, pay attention because the Lord is speaking to you now:

**Proverbs 22:17-19**  
**“Incline your ear and hear the words of a wise,**  
**And apply your heart to my knowledge;**  
**For it is a pleasant thing if you keep them within**  
**you;**  
**Let them all be fixed upon your lips, So that your**  
**trust may be in the Lord;**  
**I have instructed you today, even you.”**

Now lets learn about love, our one commandment:

**Proverbs 3:27**  
**“Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due,**  
**When it is in the power of your hand to do so.”**

**Matthew 25:34-46**  
**“Then the King will say to those on his right hand,**  
**‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the**  
**kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of**  
**the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I**  
**was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger**  
**and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed**  
**Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison**  
**and you came to Me.’**  
**Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord,**  
**when did we see You hungry and feed You, or**  
**thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a**  
**stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?**  
**Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come**

**to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them,  
‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to  
one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to  
Me’**

**Then He will also say to those on the left hand,  
‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting  
fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was  
hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and  
you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did  
not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me,  
sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’**

**Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when  
did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or  
naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister  
You?’ Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly,  
I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of  
the least of these, you did not do it to Me’ And these  
will go away into everlasting punishment, but the  
righteous into eternal life.”**

In short:

**Matthew 25:40**

**“And the King will answer and say to them,  
*Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to  
one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to  
Me”***

**John 3:16**

**“For God so loved the world that He gave His only  
begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should  
not perish but have everlasting life.”**

**John 13:35**

**“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if  
you have love for one another.”**

**John 15:13**

**“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down  
one’s life for his friends.”**

**Romans 5:8**

**“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”**

**Romans 8 38-39**

**“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

**1 Corinthians 13:3**

**“And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned but have not love, it profits me nothing.”**

**1 Corinthians 13:4-8a**

**“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, it is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.  
Love never fails.”**

**1 Corinthians 13:13**

**“And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of this is love.”**

**1 Corinthians 14:1a**

**“Pursue love”**

**Galatians 5:6**

**“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.”**

**Galatians 6:2**

**“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ”**

**Galatians 6:10**

**“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”**

**Ephesians 5:2**

**“And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”**

**Ephesians 5:16**

**“redeeming the time, because the days are evil”**

**James 2:15-17**

**“What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, “depart in peace, be warmed and filled” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works is dead.”**

**1 Peter 2:17**

**“Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king”**

**1 John 3:10-19**

**“In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother’s righteous.**

**Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.**

**We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. Whoever hates his**

**brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him."**

**Revelation 22:20-21**

**"He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly."**

**Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."**

**Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21**

**"Love!"**