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4 EXAMINING GOD'S
5 MORAL VISION
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WEEK 2 - LOVING GOD. LOVING OTHERS. OVERVIEW

At the core of all biblical morality is a posture which can and should define our lives. First, we love God with everything we have. Second, we love others as we love ourselves. As familiar as this sentiment is to those who grew up in the Church, the implications of this core posture remain staggering if we think about them deeply enough. Choosing to live each day completely surrendered to God's desires for our lives while *simultaneously* choosing to demonstrate self-giving love towards others? This is no easy task. And yet *this* is the invitation from God's Spirit which can transform us into the likeness of Christ if we let it.

You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength... [and] love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these.

Mark 12:30-31

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the See/Desire/Take pattern that Barry mentioned? Read [Genesis 3:6](#), [Joshua 7:20-21](#), [2 Samuel 11:2-4](#).
2. Read [Mark 12:28-31](#). If you want to grow in moral integrity, where would you begin? (see also [Deuteronomy 6:2-5](#) and [Leviticus 19:11-18](#) for "hyperlinks" to other scriptures.)
3. How is setting aside selfish desires and surrendering to the will of God the key to flourishing and abundance? Have you found this to be true in your experience? Why or why not?
4. You should love your neighbor as yourself and treat others the way you want to be treated - how *do* you want to be treated? List some ways you would like to be treated. Are you willing to treat your neighbor the same ways?
5. Why did Barry suggest "fundamental postures" of moral integrity?
6. True life begins with the death of your selfish desires. Do you trust God enough to take this posture? Give one example of a selfish desire that needs to be put to death.
7. Instead of the sin pattern of see/desire/take, Barry said we should see/love/give instead. What does that mean?
8. Barry asked us to each do a heart check. Ask yourself these questions and share with your group if you are willing.
 - a. What percentage of your heart, soul, mind, and strength is devoted to God these days?
 - b. When it comes to the people you interact with day to day, how often do you love your neighbor as yourself? And how often do you See/Desire/Take?

THE PRACTICE OF MORAL INTEGRITY

Disciples of Jesus reject the corruption of sin and reflect Christ to the world as image bearers of God.