

“As If”

Colossians 3:23

Big Idea: What if I lived my life this new year as if I were living it for the Lord and not for myself?

I would:

1. Invest more time in my family

Notice the first word – “invest”, not “spend” – what’s the difference? If you feel like you’re spending it, it can be gone or wasted – if you’re investing it,

Would you like to have a closer relationship to your family members? Husband, wife, father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins? You can if you invest one main thing – TIME

Time is the soil in which relationships can grow and blossom.

2. Love my neighbor as myself

Mark 12:31 The second most important command is this: 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.'

How can I do this?

What does this look like?

3. Right my wrongs

*Matthew 5:23 “So when you offer your gift to God at the altar, and you remember that your brother or sister has something against you,*

*24 leave your gift there at the altar. First, go and make peace with that person, and then come and offer your gift.*

*Matthew 5:44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,*

*Matthew 6:14 Yes, if you forgive others for their sins, your Father in heaven will also forgive you for your sins.*

*15 But if you don't forgive others, your Father in heaven will not forgive your sins.*

*Mark 11:25 But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.”*

*Acts 24:16 And this I work at continually, to make sure my conscience is always clear with God and with man.*

4. Pray to God not at God

*Matthew 6:6 When you pray, you should go into your room and close the door and pray to your Father who cannot be seen. Your Father can see what is done in secret, and he will reward you.*

*7 “And when you pray, don’t be like those people who don’t know God. They continue saying things that mean nothing, thinking that God will hear them because of their many words.*

vs. 9 - Lord’s Prayer – “Our Father...”

5. Give without expecting anything back

*Luke 14:13 Instead, when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.*

*14 Then you will be blessed, because they have nothing and cannot pay you back. But you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”*

6. Become more like Christ

*Being- Philippians 2:5 In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.*

*6 Christ himself was like God in everything. But he did not think that being equal with God was something to be used for his own benefit.*

*7 But he gave up his place with God and made himself nothing. He was born to be a man and became like a servant.*

*8 And when he was living as a man, he humbled himself and was fully obedient to God, even when that caused his death—death on a cross.*

*Doing – John 13:15 “Jesus said, ‘I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done.’”*

7. Glorify God not myself

*1 Corinthians 10:31 So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*

*32 Don’t give offense to Jews or Gentiles or the church of God.*

*33 just as I, also, try to please everybody in every way. I am not trying to do what is good for me but what is good for most people so they can be saved.*