

The Wheel

In Matthew 22:36-40, Jesus gives us what is called the Great Commandment:

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’ 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. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.’”

This passage teaches us two main things: To love God and to love others. This diagram demonstrates how we can effectively fulfill the Great Commandment in our daily lives. The two vertical spokes help us love God and the two horizontal spokes help us love others. Let’s look at each part of the wheel one at a time.



Christ - The center of the wheel is Christ. He is the one who enables us to love God and love people. Our spiritual life is lived through Jesus Christ. Without him, the rest of the wheel falls apart.

John 15:5 - *“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”*

Prayer - Prayer, simply put, is talking to God. Just like parents love to have their children talk to them, God loves when we talk to him. We pray to confess our sins, worship God, thank him for what he's done and given us, and to ask him for things. Even Jesus would frequently pray to the Father. It's good to set apart regular times of daily prayer.

Luke 5:16 - *"But he [Jesus] would withdraw to desolate places and pray."*

The Word - The Bible is God's perfect word to us. It teaches us not only what we are to believe about God, but how to best follow him and live our daily lives. It's important to have daily Bible intake. The more we read the Bible, the better we will know God.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - *"All Scripture is breathed out by God, and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."*

Fellowship - Fellowship is spending time with other Christians. It's an important part of our spiritual growth because we were meant to live in community. Other Christians also help us grow spiritually through accountability, encouragement, rebuke, etc. Challenge is a great place to get fellowship, but every Christian should also be a part of a local church where they are serving and learning.

Hebrews 10:24-25 - *"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."*

Make Disciples - Making disciples is a command that Jesus gave to all Christians. This involves sharing our faith and helping believers grow in their faith. The reason why we are here today is because people have been making disciples for 2,000 years. Just as people have shared the good news with us, we should share the good news with others!

Matthew 28:19-20 - *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

The Obedient Christian in Action - The rim represents our obedience to Christ. Just like how a perfectly round wheel rolls smoothly, when we are actively engaging in all four spokes of the wheel, we will have a balanced Christian life. But if one of our spokes is shorter than all the others, our wheel will be misshapen, and our life will be out of balance.

Which spoke of the wheel is the weakest area of your life? Which one is the strongest?

Let's think of a plan to grow in our weakest area. Make sure to write it down.