

LEADING YOURSELF, OFFERING YOURSELF by Lucinda Davidoff March 27, 2022

The Three Mandates:

God will never give us a mandate that He has not enabled us to fulfill. For every mandate He empowers us and equips us to succeed.

There are three overarching mandates found in God's word that covers the themes woven through the word of God. Understanding these mandates and our ability to fulfill them provides a solid foundation from which we as Christians are led. We lead our lives based on revelation of God's word, and if that revelation is sound we live in freedom and peace, no matter what circumstances we face.

Creation mandate:

Genesis 1:26-29 NKJV Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.

The creation mandate calls us to partner with God in establishing order and taking dominion for the benefit of all people

-God gives us His blessing - we receive it – then we operate in the blessing by living by faith and by living in and walking in the spirit.

Receiving God's blessing and His love is a verb - we have to actively receive the Blessing by faith, and we have to appropriate the blessing to our lives.

Example: I have everything I need to live the abundant life that Jesus promised me today. I walk effectively and efficiently in all I do.

I am consistently increasing my ability to create wealth as the Bible promises me

-God gives us dominion - we receive it- and then we exercise it- how- by our words.

-God gives us seed- we receive it - then we plant the seed.

Great love mandate:

Matthew 22:37 Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ **38** This is *the* first and great commandment.

39 And *the* second *is* like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

How do we love God with all our hearts, souls and minds- we cannot unless we first receive His blessing and love as a free gift.

Jesus gave this mandate knowing FULL well He was on the way to the cross to give His life as a ransom to pay for our sin. So that we can first RECEIVE HIM and be HEALED AND DELIVERED and then be enabled to Love the Lord our God with ALL of our beings.

Receiving is a verb - it's a continuous receiving of His love.

In exchange we love Him and then we love others.

Loving God is a verb, it's an action and is a continuous giving and selfless giving of ourselves.

The Great Commission mandate:

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go *therefore* and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Jesus was given the authority and He then gives it to us- that is why He says therefore GO!

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

I urge you brethren

I beg you

Therefore - is linking this chapter 12:1 to everything Paul had said chapter 1:11 in Romans. The revelation that Paul gives us in the book of Romans is that we are ALL sinners and that we are saved by GRACE through faith in what Jesus did for us on the cross. Our salvation is a free gift, we cannot earn our salvation.

Statements he makes in chapters 1:11 are

Romans 6:6 that we are no longer slaves to sin— **7** because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

Romans 6:9 Death no longer has mastery over us- cause we now live forever in Christ Jesus

We are free from the penalty of sin.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:29-30 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified”

He has already justified and glorified you – so walk it out by faith.

How do we present our bodies - by the mercies of God- being enabled by the blessing we have received.

Living sacrifice - the imagery is of the animal sacrifices that the Israelites offered up to God

Every animal that was put on the altar died

Similarly we die to self and are spiritually resurrected in Christ to live this new life

Here Paul who adequately modeled a life of sacrifice and putting his life of the altar begs us to do the same

2 Corinthians 11:24 From the Jews five times I received forty *stripes* minus one. **25** Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; **26** *in* journeys often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils of *my own* countrymen, *in* perils of the Gentiles, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren; **27** in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness— **28** besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. **2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Serve God with Spiritual Gifts

3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. **4** For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, **5** so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. **6** Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; **7** or ministry, *let us use it in our* ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; **8** he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Behave Like a Christian

9 *Let love be* without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. **10** *Be* kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; **11** not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; **12** rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; **13** distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.