

26/27 September 2023 //

Deuteronomy 6:1-14

Background (from last week again!):

The book of Deuteronomy (literally 'Law') sets out how to live out a love-relationship with the Lord. It is not setting out the *means* by which we get right with God; it's painting a picture of how God's people should *respond* to the gracious rescue that God has Himself already given (in Exodus). Keller's 10mins video may be worth circulating to your CG - [Tim Keller - Discovering the Gospel in Deuteronomy](#)

1. First Love

i) Read [Deut. 6:1-14](#). How is the heartbeat of v.5-6 so simple yet so challenging?

Maybe reflect on even just today or this week through the lens of this command.

ii) Jago mentioned different temptations that draw us away from centering on God: [Comfort](#) (6:10-12), [Culture](#) (8:14,17-18) and [Crisis](#) (6:16 & Ex. 17:3&7).

As we look at these verses, which of these can we recognise in our lives?

Perhaps share, in 2s or 3s, as honestly as you can, about the things that can occupy our hearts and distract from our first love. Put another way: in what ways are we tempted to get horizontally (from others) what we were designed to get vertically (from God)?

2. His Love

Read [Deut. 7:7-8](#).

(and, if time, a New Covenant passage on the same theme: [Ephesians 2:1-10](#))

i) How is God's love for His covenant people, Christ's bride, so often so different from our experience (in culture or in our lives) of human love?

ii) In what ways do we struggle to really believe this? What would change if we really rest in this love?

An old pastor wrote: "*You have no cause to boast. He loved you, because he loved you— for nothing in you. O what [an undeserving] soul was't thou, when Christ set his love upon thee!*" (Robert Murray McCheyne)

ii) What's humbling, and what's reassuring about the fact that this love is undeserved?

iii) GOING DEEPER:

How does this Old Covenant command in Deut. 6:5-6 makes us yearn for, and rest in, the New Covenant work of the Spirit - who enables us to truly begin to love God? (See [Ezekiel 36:24-27](#))

3. Love in Action

Look again at the three particular ways, in our Vision for Life series, we at HTC can respond by action to God's love.

See [HTCA Vision for Life](#)



i) Which of these three are we, as individuals and as a CG, stronger and weaker at? Why's that?

ii) How could we pursue these things *Belong/ Pray / Grow* this coming term?

iii) And how can we make sure our action is springing from a deep sense of His free, unconditional love?

How practically could we remind one another as a CG this week of His love?

Spend some time in prayer for one another as we reorientate our hearts to Him as our first Love who fuels our actions in our day to day lives.