



## *A COMMUNITY OF CONNECTIONS:*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11:

“NEVER SATISFIED – GROWING TOGETHER”

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18:

“THE LOVE CONNECTION”

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25:

“COME AND SEE!”

## “THE LOVE CONNECTION”

MARK 12: 28 – 34

Jesus’ words in Mark 12 remind all of God’s people that we have a common connection. We are all connected in our love for God, for each other, and for all people.

### Introit

Psalm 133

L: Behold, how good and pleasant it is

**C: When brothers dwell in unity!**

L: It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard,

**C: On the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!**

L: It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion!

**C: For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.**

### The Old Testament Lesson

Deuteronomy 10: 12 – 22

(God rescued his people from slavery and death. Now Moses shares with God’s people His call to love and obedience.)

<sup>12</sup>“And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, <sup>13</sup>and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good? <sup>14</sup>Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it. <sup>15</sup>Yet the LORD set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day. <sup>16</sup>Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn. <sup>17</sup>For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. <sup>18</sup>He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. <sup>19</sup>Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. <sup>20</sup>You shall fear the LORD your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him, and by his name you shall swear. <sup>21</sup>He is your praise. He is your God, who has done for you these great and terrifying things that your eyes have seen.” <sup>22</sup>Your fathers went down to Egypt seventy persons, and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars of heaven.

## The Epistle Lesson

1 Thessalonians 3: 11 – 14

(Paul's prayer for God's people is that He would make their "love for one another and all people grow and overflow", that He might prepare them for Christ's return.)

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, <sup>12</sup>and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, <sup>13</sup>so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

## The Gospel Lesson

Mark 12: 28 – 34

(Jesus concisely explains God's will for us: to love the Lord and to love our neighbor.)

<sup>28</sup>One of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that [Jesus] answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?"

<sup>29</sup>Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup>And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' <sup>31</sup>The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." <sup>32</sup>And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. <sup>33</sup>And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." <sup>34</sup>And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.



## CONNECTING POINTS: OUR VISION IN ACTION

Spend time discussing with a friend or family member what it means to "love your neighbor as yourself". Make a list of the kinds of actions that would make you feel loved by those around you.

Sometimes the people closest to us are the people we hurt the most. Is there a family member – or a brother or sister in Christ – that has received a less than kind interaction from you? If so, make time for that person this week, and offer an apology, a hug or a word of encouragement – or perhaps all three!

*CONNECTING PEOPLE TO CHRIST NOW AND FOREVER*