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### Do Good and Stay in Love with God

The three simple rules, as you probably already know, are Do no harm, do good, and stay in love with god. Exactly how do we concentrate on all of these when we have so much on our minds already? Sure doing good could be going on a mission trip or helping out at Project Share or even donating money to a good cause. What if your "good" was rejected, misused, or even unseen? Would you stop doing those good things? Of course God saw them, and you would know for yourself that what you did was for the better and it's the feeling inside of you that keeps you doing good. But is that enough? There is so much in this world that needs our help and at times it is easy to feel overwhelmed that we aren't doing or given enough. Yet with God, every little thing we do matters. Colossians 3: 12-14 it says "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." This is easier said than done I think.

Being clothed in compassion though is part of doing good. Compassion in us is what makes us want to help others and serve others. It's what keeps us close to God and it's what helps us do good. If we see someone with their hands full, trying to open a door, then it's good to go over and open the door for them. When walking through a parking lot and we see someone with a lot of groceries, it would be good to go over and help them. Its little acts of kindness like these that spread the goodness as well as the big things. Another part of doing good is in our everyday interactions with those around us. How many times has somebody done something to hurt you, upset you, or even make you really mad? In those situations, forgiveness isn't always our first instinct and it's a lot easier to just stay mad at someone than to forgive them. It takes strength

though to forgive and it's a part of doing good. Like the verse says, we are Gods people and should be dressed in kindness, gentleness, and patience. If the Lord can forgive us for everything we have done then we should be able to forgive others and not hold grudges. Forgiving each other shows love and love overrules everything that could ever hurt us. This leads me into the third simple rule, Stay in love with God.

How do you stay in love with God? If it's anything like regular relationships, people fall in and out of love every day. How do some couples last over fifty years together? Well, our relationship with God is not like that of humans that become our "other halves". Some ways to stay in love with God though are daily prayer, study of scripture, and weekly worship. These are all very simple and easy to do and at the same time, they bring you so close to God. Being a good disciple will keep us in love with God. Prayer can be for an hour, or just a few seconds as you see an ambulance going somewhere. Each of these times we talk with God, it draws us closer into that relationship. Sometimes we may drift from God but we always have the Holy Spirit guiding us back to God and that shows just how strong love can be. In Mark 12: 29-31 it says "Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 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.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Loving the Lord with all your heart and all your soul, this is what makes us Stay in love with God. This past Wednesday I lost a friend who worked with me. I wanted to be angry at God because I don't think that it's fair that he was taken from us and I wanted to be mad at God for letting such a bad thing happen but I know deep inside that he is in a better place now. That God has other plans for him and that he is in a better place now. His time with us was served and he has served his purpose for being here. Loving the Lord with all your heart and all your soul, this is what makes us Stay in love with God.