A SAR Gentleman

Study One, Week One

Foundational Principle

*“You shall love the Lord your God”*

As you have looked over the materials, you can see that the word *love* is used many times. It is a very familiar word to all of us. We assume that we know what love is. There are probably thousands of songs about love. Most only consider the earthly, physical, and sexual type of love.

Stop for a moment and consider what *love* means to you.

How do you understand love?

How do you express love?

How do you want love for yourself?

Exploring this abstract concept of *love* will get us on the right track to continue our SAR Cross study and how love applies to the meaning of the cross and the spiritual values that we will consider.

Some meanings of love as a noun:

1 - a profoundly tender, passionate affection for another person.

2 - a feeling of warm personal attachment or deep affection, as for a parent, child, or friend.

3 - sexual passion or desire.

4 - affection for another person as “to be in love”.

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An Example:

Our revered Leader, General George Washington, struggled as he lived the example of loving God first. He sought to be ‘sold out’ to God in all he did. His day very often started with scripture reading and prayer, devoting himself to God, to His authority, to His leadership, and to His promise of leading him to see beyond the chaos of the war, beyond what seemed to be impending doom, and total loss of a nation. Washington worked hard as a young man in practicing these things, and even into old age.

In working on this first principle, we begin to see the seeds of hope starting to take root as we follow Washington’s example. Hope is a sure belief that God can and will do exactly what he has already promised. If we look in the Bible, in history, God has an unblemished track record, unlike ours. We must learn to trust through faith. That will allow hope to grow.

As Commanding General of the Colonial Armies, Washington practiced this hopeful viewpoint as he carefully led his men, made plans of attack, sought the good of his men in all his decisions. He always had a Chaplain close by. He regularly taught and urged his men not to use profane speech, to act right, to act as Gentlemen. He continually urged his officers to give a good strong example to the men by acting right and attending regular “Divine Services.”

And then he prayed, often writing his prayers in his journals. What a powerful example he set before his general officers, and before the men.

What quiet example do *you* give?

Does your life exemplify putting God first in all your affairs?

The first lesson of the SAR Cross is foundational. It informs everything that we do and think. The Cross Upright causes us to look ***up*** with the meaning,

**“You shall love the Lord your God”.**