

Dear Friends,

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus say, "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple." That sounds pretty harsh. Does Jesus really want us to hate our family and even our very life? Of course not! But what then does he mean?



I remember my father telling me, "If God is all you have, you have all you need." If God is the fulfillment of our desires, we have no need for disordered attachments. In part, this means we have no need for sin. It also means that, in loving God first, we love others best because it is a properly ordered love guided by God. Additionally, loving God first means we are able to use our talents and gifts for good because that use is guided by God, who is all good.

God is the greatest gift we could possibly receive. However, how are we cultivating our relationship with Him? Are we allowing other things to get in the way? As the new school year begins, students head back to the classroom. There are so many things to learn that it can feel overwhelming. Yet, it's important to ask ourselves, how much time are we spending learning about God? When we love someone, shouldn't we want to spend time with them and get to know them better?

The parish religious education program, Equip Family Faith Formation, begins later this month. In addition to directly forming children in the Faith, the program equips parents through lessons to help them form their children as the primary educator that they are. Both parent and child grow in the knowledge and love of God together. If you haven't registered your family for Equip, there is still time! In addition to Equip, there are many other ways to continue to form your faith regardless of your age or stage in life. Feel free to reach out to me at familyformation@sacredheart-fremont.org or call me at the parish office. I am happy to help!

God's goal is ultimately to bring us together, but that can only be achieved in Him. That is why He must be number one in our lives, and why we must continue to learn about Him and grow in faith. It is not easy but is well worth it. God gives us the grace to put Him first. And in putting God first, we will have everything we need.

In Christ,
Eddie