

Loving the Enemy Within

Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor *as yourself.*' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." **Matt. 22:36-40**

I. Past mistakes/ failures/ sin

II. Painful memories

III. Aspects of our body

IV. Aspects of our character

...we know that in *all* things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose (**Rom 8:28**)

Eph. 1:9-12. And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment...

...to bring all things (*oikonomia*) in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.





- 1. See your story as part of the BIG story.**
- 2. Embrace the process**
- 3. Love your “enemy.” Return the evil “push” with good.. *Bring together* all aspects of your story now, anticipating the time when God will bring together all things in Christ.**

- **forgive yourself**
- **forgive others**
- **accept your body**
- **have hope with your present struggles**