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## ROTC Life and Faith

### Priorities

You are beginning a series that will help you integrate your faith and military life. Military life and faith does not need to be an oxymoron. This study will help you learn how being a better cadet/midshipman will strengthen your faith, and how strengthening your faith will make you a better cadet.

**The Military and your Faith require a high level of commitment that affects all other priorities.**

List your top 5 priorities in life:

How does being in the military affect other priorities in your life?

Why do you want to be in the military?

How do you think your relationship with Christ should affect other priorities in your life?

Being in the military and being in a relationship with Christ require the same character quality: Commitment. However, there are times when our commitments come in conflict with one another. How are we to prioritize our commitments and relationships so that we live according to God's priorities?

The answer to this question will lay the foundation for your ability to prioritize your life and give you the ability to integrate your faith and cadet/midshipman life. Let's look at what the Bible says about priorities and commitments.



## I. Having correct priorities requires putting Jesus first.

We all have priorities. The question is, Which one is first? Jesus requires us to put Him first, always. Then we can accomplish His good will for our lives.

“Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.” - Matthew 10:37

Why do you think Christ wants us to love Him more than even our closest relationships?

**more than**  
*above, supreme*

**To follow Jesus requires having a supreme love for Him.**

Here is an interesting passage:

“If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.” - Luke 14:26

**hate**  
*This is not a psychological hatred but a total commitment that gives absolute priority to Jesus.<sup>1</sup>  
Love = Choose  
Hate = Reject*

What does Jesus mean by “hate”?

Think of it in terms of *choosing* and *rejecting*. Jesus is telling us that when we compare our love for Him with anyone else, we will always *choose* Him as our number one love and *reject* others as our number one love. Our love for Him is incomparable.

**Read Matthew 6:24.** Why is it impossible to serve two masters? Since it is impossible, you must choose who will be your master. Will you place Jesus as your #1 love or someone else, even yourself?

**To follow Jesus requires having an incomparable love for Him.**

In order to be able to prioritize our commitments and relationships, we must choose which one will be the greatest. Jesus deserves to be first. He requires us to have a love that is supreme and incomparable.

**Wedding Illustration:** When you get married, you will stand in front of a group of people and commit to loving your spouse, “forsaking all others.” Your spouse is your #1 earthly love. There is no competition. Similarly, we commit to loving Jesus, forsaking all others as our #1 love.

If Jesus is your primary love relationship, what can you do to develop that relationship?

**Supreme**  
and  
**Incomparable**  
Love  
for  
Jesus

1. Kittel, Gerhard, and Friedrich, Gerhard, Editors., *The Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Abridged in One Volume*, (Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company) 1985.

## II. Living out your priorities requires living out your relationship with Jesus.

We are most committed to the things we love. The Christian life can be summed up into two commands found in Mark 12:30-31:

“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: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.”

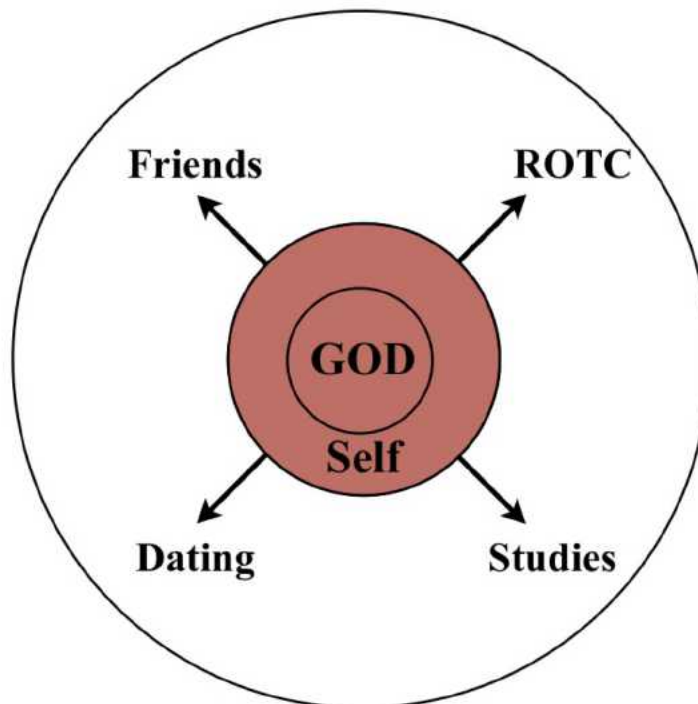


What does it look like to love God with all your heart, mind, soul, strength?

How does that differ from loving neighbor “as yourself”?

The proper way to think about priorities is that my relationship with God is first in every area of my life. God is first in my family, in my job/school, etc... Therefore, God determines how I think and act in my other relationships and responsibilities.

Proper View of Relationships



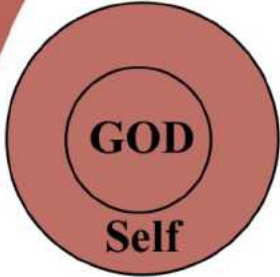
*Living out the Christian life in Relationships.*

My relationship with God is key to living out my other responsibilities. God shapes how I think and act in all other relationships. Through my relationship with God, He works through me to act out His love and desires to all my other relationships.

What does Christ (Bible) have to say about how I am to think and act in my other relationships and responsibilities? Let’s explore it on the next page.

### III. Balancing Priorities requires knowing and trusting Jesus.

If my relationship with Jesus guides all other relationships, how can I strengthen my relationship with Jesus?



#### A. Time in the Word (Listen to God).

What does the Bible have to say about how you are to think and act in the following relationships?

Friends	ROTC	Studies	Dating

You can use this exercise to evaluate other relationships and responsibilities in your life.

#### B. Time in Prayer (Talk to God).

Pray through one of the areas of relationships and ask God to give you the desire and the opportunity to love others.

#### Personal Reflection

List 3-5 reasons why you love Jesus more than anything else:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

#### **Do you have a relationship with Jesus?**

You may have never begun a relationship with Christ. Read the "Knowing God Personally" booklet. It explains how to begin a relationship with Jesus. If you don't have access to the book, you can view it at [www.fourspiritualaws.com](http://www.fourspiritualaws.com)

