



Shofar Christian Church



**We are what we love**

**Ross van Niekerk  
Shofar Durbanville**

## Deuteronomy 6:3-9

3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do [these commands], ***that it may go well with you***, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in ***a land flowing with milk and honey***.

4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

5 You shall ***love the LORD your God with all your heart*** and with all your soul and with all your might.

6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.





## Deuteronomy 6:3-9

7 You shall *teach them diligently to your children,*

and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

8 You shall bind them as a *sign* on your hand, and they shall be as *frontlets* between your eyes.

9 You shall write them on the *doorposts* of your house and on your gates.





## We are what we love

- “Love God with all your heart”
- “That it may be well with you”
- “Teach your children”
- “Let it be a sign on your hands”



# 1: We are defined by our devotion

*“Love the Lord with all your heart”*

- “You have made us for Yourself and our hearts are restless until they find rest in You.” – St. Augustin
- The problem with idols – W. Percey



*The human person is a lover*

## 2: Life is oriented by our loves

*“A land flowing with milk and honey”*

- What does our culture picture as “the good life”?
- What is your picture of “human flourishing”?



*To be human is to desire the good life*



### 3: Our loves are formed

*“Teach your children”*

- Renovation of the heart.
- “Cultural practices are liturgy” – James K.A. Smith.v



*Our loves are formed by our imagination*

## 4: Formative practices

*“Let it be a sign on your hand”*

- Embodied loves; *2<sup>nd</sup> Nature* – Plato
- Thick and Thin practices express and train our desire.
- The way to a man’s heart...



*Our habits are a hinge to the heart*





Proverbs 4:18-23

The path of the righteous is *like the light of dawn*, which shines brighter and brighter until full day.

The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know over what they stumble.

My son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Let them not escape from your sight; keep them within your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh.

***Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.***

In which way does...

- Daily exercise
- Daily devotion
- Coming to church service

... shape your identity?

... shape your image of the  
good life?

