



Chaplain's Office
University Passage Resource

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[Discussion with Frank Rojas](#)

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“Hear O Israel.” Such a compelling vision, later echoed by Christ as the “greatest commandment,” serves as a clarion call for all of us—both corporately as Christian institutions, and individually as those who serve within these institutions. At APU, our mission to be “difference-makers” is fundamentally grounded in this call to “love God and love people.”

The command to love God is intended to impact our entire personhood—heart, soul, mind, and strength. Learning to engage God’s truth is an active process: “when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” Further, “love your neighbor” is a call to action. Indeed, learning to love God and love people is at the heart of our faith journey.

At University College, we claim to “*create for people a new hope for the future,*” a commitment to prepare our learners not only with the knowledge and skills to succeed in the workplace, but also to point the way to the ultimate hope that is in Jesus Christ. As a university that is driven by hope, we believe that *what* and *how* our learners learn can make a significant difference in *how* they live meaningful lives—lives that are characterized by a love for God and love for others.

Achieving such a vision demands that we understand the particular learners—the “neighbors” to whom God has called us. With a focus on “nontraditional students,” we must pay close attention to *who* our students are, and the rich diversity of backgrounds they bring as adult learners. We endeavor to connect all aspects of our learners’ experience to their studies, their relationship with God, and their part in His story—to learn the implications of “loving their neighbor” and the difference this can make to other aspects of their personal and professional lives.

But such a vision demands that we, too, as an institution, have a learning posture. As one of our core values, a learning-centered approach invites us to view our learners as co-contributors to the learning process. It reminds us of how much we have to learn from our colleagues, from the marketplace, and the global neighborhoods in which we live. As we continue on our education journey, my prayer is that God would give us ears to hear this call, to be faithful stewards of the resources He has entrusted to us, and to deepen our love for Him and the ways it is expressed in our love for others.

Reflection Questions:

- How does this core expression of our faith, to love God and love others, impact the design of our learning environments? How can it help us to re-envision our pedagogy?
- How do we foster learning-centered institutions that promote love for God and love for neighbor? What might be the implications for institutional priorities, strategic initiatives, and distribution of resources?