

The Two Greatest Commandments

Matthew 22:34-40

INTRODUCTION:

The next necessary ingredient for us to consider on the Christian journey is the ingredient of love, but with love comes commandments.

John 15:15-21

¹⁵ “If you love me, obey my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. ¹⁷ He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. ¹⁸ No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you. ¹⁹ Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live. ²⁰ When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.”

A few years ago, I spent a year preaching through what is known as the love chapter, 1 Corinthians 13, but today I want to consider what Jesus said are the two greatest commandments. Matter of fact, He states that all the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments. These two commandments are foundational.

The Most Important Commandment

³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees with his reply, they met together to question him again. ³⁵ One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?”

³⁷ Jesus replied, “‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

1st Commandment: You must love God.

R.A. Torrey

If loving God with all our heart and soul and might is the greatest commandment, then it follows that not loving Him that way is the greatest sin.

A. To love God is to be obedient to His commands as earlier stated. God's commands have a purpose of not just you being surrendered to God, but also a gateway for you to discover of you are and created to be.

Jack Hyles

Love is the doorway through which the human soul passes from selfishness to service.

B. "You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind."

C. **Heart** – our will must align to God's will. The heart is not referring to the emotions but the will of a person. This is why we say that we "give our heart to Jesus."

D. **Soul** – my entire existence. All of me. All of you. To love God is to love Him with our entire soul.

E. **Mind** – our mind must be focused on God and the things of God. Is your mind focused on God and the things of God?

Bernard of Clairvaux

The true measure of loving God is to love him without measure.

F. Or are you focused on your own agenda desiring God to bless you somehow?

Daniel Fuller

In biblical thinking, genuine love exists only when good works are done in a context where God rather than the doer gets the credit.

G. To not keep your mind focused on the things of God or use your mind in Kingdom work is actually a sin because we are commanded to use our minds.

H. Discipleship is like breaking a horse. The purpose of breaking a horse is to train their mind to put your task over their agenda. In other words, their agenda may be if it is a stud breeding mares, running through the field, or eating anytime they want, but your agenda may be to ride in a parade, pen cattle, rope, or barrel race. You may want to do multiple things with the horse so they need to be broke not to just a task, but to your will that can teach them any task you want them to do. In the same way, if we love God versus, simply, a task God would approve of then we can be useful in many different tasks for the Lord. This is what it means to love God and not just the things that we believe God might have us do.

I. Christianity is not a faith that asks you to check your mind in at the door but rather to engage your mind. What controls your feet, hands, and mouth, it is your mind. If you get your mind under control, just like training a horse, the rest will follow.

Francis Chan

"Do you know that nothing you do in this life will ever matter unless it is about loving God and loving the people he has made?"

CONCLUSION

- Is God your everything? Or are you working Him into your schedule whenever you believe it benefits you?
- Are all the compartments of your life focused on the Lord so that you can truly say you are loving God with everything?
- Are you soft (like a horse to the bit) in your obedience to the Lord looking to show Him your love in how you respond to what it means to love Him with all your heart, soul, and mind?
- Loving God means loving to be who He made us to be as a love response for Him not only giving us life to start with, but also giving us life eternal through what He did for us on the cross and in His resurrection.

