



“The Greatest Command... Love God”

February 15, 2026
Mark 12:28-34

Introduction:

What is the greatest command?

Jesus = Perfect Fulfillment:

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. -

Matthew 5:17-18

“For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone believes” - **Romans 10:4**

- **Jesus Christ accomplishes what we never could!**

The Great Command (Mark 12:28-31):

And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall 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: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.’”

- Part of a series of controversies which the Jewish religious leaders in the temple compound - most often they approach Jesus with pride and ill intent.
- A sincere scribe approaches Jesus, asking: Which of the 613 commandments is the most important?

Jesus Responds

- The Shema - An all important Jewish creed, emphasizing the fact that there is only one GOD - the Lord. (Deut. 6:4)
- Loving God begins by declaring that there is only one God - *“I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols”* - **Isaiah 42:8**



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The Greatest Commandment is.....?

"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."

- Because there is one God - love Him with ALL YOU ARE. Your affections and devotion to HIM should be unparalleled with anything else in life.

Heart = sincerity, undivided commitment. You cannot serve two masters (Mt. 6:24)

Soul = Often translated as *life*, could be understood as a your driving passion.

Without this your life would feel purposeless.

Mind = Intellect and reason. Study scripture to KNOW God. (Romans 12:2)

Strength = The energy and passion that moves (Colossians 1:29)

Consider the Olympic athlete who decides where to live, what to eat, their schedule is all based on the driving goal to be the best at their sport.

Loving God is to be the all consuming passion of our lives!

Loving God is a moral filter for our lives. Sin is not merely doing something wrong, it reveals a misplaced love. My love for God determines how I speak, what I do with my time, how I treat others, how I care for my wife, that I serve those who are vulnerable etc...

How do we know if something has gotten to much ahold of our hearts? **How can I know if I have an idol in my heart?**

Loving Others:

The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these. (Mark 12:31)

- Don't put the second ahead of the FIRST.
- Loving God first provides the guardrails and protections necessary to love others in a way that honors God first.
- How we love others, though, IS an expression of our love for God (1 John 4:19-20).
- Resolving conflict is an expression of love for others and love for God

In what way(s), might it be easy to put "love others" ahead of "loving God"?

How might we like the *idea* of LOVE, but actually be quite *unloving to those closest to us*?

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