

## THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

### Int.

1. Aim: To explain that the first commandment is to Love God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind !
2. Deut. 6:5 NKJV "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength." Quoted in [Matt. 22:34-40](#) & [Mk. 12:28-34](#)
  - a. Pharisees and Sadducees were trying to trap Jesus
  - b. Lawyer asks which was the most important commandment
    - i. 611 commandments under Law of Moses - 246 positive and 365 negative
    - ii. They did not keep every one perfectly - to keep so many laws they said was angel's work
    - iii. Decided if a man obeyed one perfectly that this would be accepted as obedience to all of the laws.
    - iv. But which law was most important?
    - v. Pharisees felt that fasting and tithes were first.
    - vi. Some thought the Sabbath, others thought the sacrifices, and some thought the feasts were most important.
  - c. They hoped that Christ would name a commandment, and then they would accuse him of belittling the others.
  - d. Jesus answer was to love God and neighbor.
3. This is the hub of Christianity
  - a. This involves the service of the whole man
  - b. Every sin is a violation of this command - PS. 119:11
4. What is the first commandment ? Mark 12:30

## Discussion

### I. THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THY....

Love is a one word summary

#### A. HEART

1. Love God in comparison to nothing else or no one else. Love with your best.
2. Be ready to give up anything for God, so he can be first in our love.

##### a. Relatives who hinder

(1) Lk. 14:26-27 - Hate = love less

(2) Mt. 10:37 - we cannot love father or mother more than God

"He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."

(3) When there is a choice between relatives and God we must put God first!

If we love God with all our heart we will obey God first.

##### b. Possessions - [land, home, money]

(1) Mt. 6:24 - mammon the god of riches or wealth "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

(2) More we love God the more we hate mammon

(3) No one can love the God of heaven and love mammon the god of this world, at the same time.

(4) Our affections can be fixed on only one object. Hate despise or Love = hold

(5) God will accept none of our service unless he has it all. Partial service is unacceptable to Him.

(6) Satan is willing to accept a part because he knows that by getting only a part he really gets all.

(7) Can't love God without hating mammon

3. To love God with all our heart means we are ready to do anything asked by God!!

## B. SOUL

1. This means we give all of our spiritual nature to God.
2. We are ready to give up comforts of the body in order to serve God. We are even ready to give up life itself for God.
  - a. Stephen - Acts 7
  - b. He endured suffering, ridicule, and even death
  - c. He loved God with all his soul
3. Lk. 9:24 ...whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it."
4. Gal. 2:20 - Christ lived in Paul "Christ liveth in me"

## C. Mind = understanding

1. This means we apply our self to know God and his will. We hunger and thirst after righteousness
  - a. Mt. 5:6 - This is the only hunger that can be truly and finally satisfied
  - b. Those who desire sin can never get enough of it to please them
  - c. Physical hunger is only temporarily satisfied
  - d. He shall be filled

2. When we love God with all our mind we will receive the truth of God's word with:
  - a. Submission
  - b. Gratitude
  - c. And Pleasure
  - d. Jn. 8:32
3. A person who loves God with all their heart will form no plans or projects without first thinking about God and His will or desires: - Mt. 6:33
  - a. Vacation
  - b. Job
  - c. Community
4. We must have this desire for the word of God. It cannot be injected into us.

#### D. STRENGTH

1. We exert the power of our body in God's service
  - a. Col. 3:17 - do everything in such a way that God will be glorified
  - b. I Cor. 10:31 - do all to the glory of God. "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."
2. This means we will sacrifice to serve God
  - a. Time, money, comforts
  - b. We will not spare anything that we have to give service, glory and honor to God.

## **II. WHY IS THIS THE FIRST AND GREAT COMMANDMENT?**

- A. All commandments of God, are in one sense equally binding, and the spirit of obedience is tested by all.
  - 1. But some commands relate to matters that are of themselves more important
  - 2. Duty to God is the highest duty and comprehends all other duties.
  - 3. Out of this will flow everything else !
- B. The Great commandment is to have a heart that.. desires to obey all of God's commandments. - Jn. 14:15
- C. This is the foundation of the entire law of God.
  - 1. In observing this all others are observed
  - 2. It forbids all sin against God - polytheism, atheism, idolatry
  - 3. It includes all the other laws.

## **III. THE SECOND IS "THOU SHALT LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF"**

The lawyer did not ask for the second, but Jesus gave it because it was a necessary companion of the first ..... Matt. 22:39 "and the second is like it: you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

- A. Love as thyself
  - 1. No command in scriptures for a man to love himself
  - 2. God made us in such a way that we love our self
- B. Love neighbor in the same way we love self
  - 1. Another way of expressing the golden rule - Mt. 7:12
  - 2. Not to love neighbor instead of self

3. If you love your neighbor as yourself you will treat him the way you want him to treat you!
    - a. You will not lie to him or about him.
    - b. You will not kill him or injure him
    - c. You will not steal from him.
  4. Rom. 13:9-10 "For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if [there be] any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love [is] the fulfilling of the law."
  5. We owe to our neighbor what we have a right to expect from him
- C. Supreme love to God is shown in love to man

### **Conclusion**

1. "There is no other commandment greater than these." Mk. 12:31 b
2. "On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Mt. 22:40
  - a. The first - Love God with all heart, soul, mind and strength
    - i. This covers the commands found on the first table of stone.
    - ii. The first four of the 10 commandments were about our relationship to God
      - (1) Thou shalt have no other God's before me
      - (2) Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image
      - (3) Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain
      - (4) Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy

[Lord's Day now, 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week not the 7<sup>th</sup> ]

b. The second - "Love thy neighbor as thyself"

- i. This summarizes the commands found on the second table of stone
- ii. These 6 deal with our relationship to each other.

(1) [5] Honor thy father and thy mother

(2) [6] Thou shalt not kill

(3) [7] Thou shalt not commit adultery

(4) [6] Thou shalt not steal

(5) [9] Thou shalt not bear false witness

(6) [10] Thou shalt not covet

3. Love is the fulfilling of the law of God

4. Love me [God] and thy fellows [man]

5. 1 Tim. 1:5 "But the end of the commandment is love out of a pure heart, and a good conscience, and faith unfeigned," MKJV

6. Mk. 12:32- 33- truth

7. Mk. 12:34 - Not far from the kingdom "And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him [any question]."

a. Not measured in inches

b. But in preparation of his heart

8. Are you close to the kingdom of God ?

a. Do you love God?

b. If so you will obey Him

c. Become a Christian - live for Him

d. This is the greatest commandment

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