

Two Great Loves - Let's Go
Mark 12:28-34
1-9-22

I. Love God Supremely

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

1. Love One God.

1 Corinthians 8:6 – *"Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist."*

2. Love God for who He is.

Exodus 34:6-7 – *"...The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin..."*

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

3. Love God with all life.

Romans 5:5 – *"...God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."*

Psalms 42:1-2 – *"As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God..."*

Romans 12:1 – *"...present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."*

1 John 4:10 – *"In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."*

II. Love Others Genuinely

1 John 4:20 – *"If anyone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen."*

1. Love others as yourself.

Philippians 2:3-5 – *"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus."*

Luke 9:23 – *"And he said to all, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.'"*

2. Love others as Christ Loved.

Ephesians 5:1-2 – *"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."*

Colossians 2:2 – *"...that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ."*

John 13:34-35 – *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

Growing Deeper This Week

1. In what way is the command to "love God completely" more difficult than the Ten Commandments?
2. What do "heart, soul, mind, and strength" represent individually and collectively?
3. How would you respond to the person who says, "Jesus is telling us we need to learn how to love ourselves first and then to love others"?
4. How is obedience to these two great commands different from observance of religious ritual? How do you explain that God commanded Israel to observe sacrificial rituals?
5. What is the connection between these two great commands and the concept of a relationship with God through Christ?
6. How was Jesus an example of absolute love for God? How was He an example of perfect love for His neighbor?