

Living Out the Greatest Commandments

By Heath Morris

Have you ever asked a question that you regretted?

- How much money do you make?
- Why aren't you married yet?
- How much do you weigh?
- Are you pregnant?
- Why do you look so tired?
- How old are you?
- Is that your real hair?
- How did you afford that?

Context of Matthew 22

- In verse 15 Jesus is asked about paying taxes to Caesar
- In verse 23 the Sadducees ask him about the resurrection
- In our passage, Jesus is asked by a Pharisee about the greatest commandment in the Law.

Purpose of the Sermon

- What does it mean to love God?
- What does it mean to love your neighbor?
- How can we practice this?

Loving God with All Your Heart, Soul, and Mind

What Does it Mean to Love God?

Verse 37: Loving God with All Your Heart, Soul, and Mind

Heart – Emotional

Soul – Spiritual

Mind – Intellectual

Loving God with All Your Heart, Soul, and Mind

Biblical Examples of Loving God:

King David – Psalms 63

“My soul thirsts for You”

“My lips shall praise You”

“I meditate on you in the night watches.”

Mary of Bethany – Luke 10:38-42

Both loved Jesus but worries distracted Martha

Loving God with All Your Heart, Soul, and Mind

Practical Ways to Love God:

- **Daily Devotion: The importance of personal prayer, Bible study, and worship.**
- **Obedience: Following God's commands and seeking His will in all areas of life (John 14:15).**
 - **"If you love Me, keep my commandments."**
- **Prioritizing God: Making God the central focus of our decisions, relationships, and goals.**

Loving Your Neighbor as Yourself

Understanding Who Is Your Neighbor:

- **Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)**
- **Good Guys**
 - Priest and Levite
- **Bad Guy**
 - Samaritan – compromised religious beliefs
- **The neighbor was...**
 - Not someone he knew
 - Not someone of the same race
 - Just someone in need

Loving Your Neighbor as Yourself

Biblical Examples of Loving Neighbors:

Early Church – Acts 2:42-47

Sharing Possessions

Gathering in Fellowship

Sharing food in gladness and simplicity of heart

Barnabas – Acts 4:32-37

Made sure no one among them lacked

Sold their excess and laid at the apostles' feet

Loving Your Neighbor as Yourself

Practical Ways to Love Your Neighbor:

- **Acts of Kindness: Helping those in need, offering encouragement, and showing hospitality (Hebrews 13:1-3).**
- **Forgiveness: Extending grace and forgiveness, even when it's difficult (Colossians 3:12-17).**
- **Building Relationships: Investing time and effort in developing meaningful relationships with those around us.**

Interconnection of Loving God and Our Neighbors

The commandments are inseparable:

1 John 4:17-21

- **There is no fear in love.**
- **We love him because he first love us.**
- **He who loves God must love his brother.**

Overcoming Challenges in Loving God and Neighbor

Common Obstacles:

- **Busyness**
- **Distractions**
- **Selfishness**
- **Past hurts**

Conclusion

Encouragement and Empowerment:

Romans 5:3-5

Our hope will be fulfilled by God's love.

Our love to others is God working through us.

Galatians 5:22-26

Bear the fruit of the Spirit by loving others