

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

Christ Calls Us to Love God, Love Others, and Submit to Him

Mark 12:28-37

Ken Lewis, Senior Pastor

Lord's Day, April 10, 2016

I. Love God Supremely (12:28-30)

A. A question of priority (v. 28)

B. An exclusive love for God (v. 29) (Deut. 6:4-5)

Deuteronomy 4:35 To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD is God; there is no other besides him.

C. A comprehensive love for God (v. 30)

- How do I love God? Obedience
 - Love is a verb that moves us to action.
 - Love is a motive that prompts and guides our actions.

1 Jn. 5:3 This is love for God: to obey his commands”

- How can I grow in my love for God?
 - Our love can only be a response to His infinite love for us.

1 Jn. 4:19 We love God because he first loved us.

- What hinders you from loving God?
 - Guilt and condemnation

If we want to grow in our love for God and in the acceptable obedience that flows out of that love, we must keep coming back to the cross and the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ. That is why it is so important that we keep the gospel before us every day. Because we sin every day, and our consciences condemn us every day, we need the gospel every day. Jerry Bridges – *The Discipline of Grace*, p. 126

- Idolatry (Deut. 6:14-15)

James 4:4–5 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”?

- Are you loving God wholeheartedly?

II. Love Others Genuinely (12:31)

A. Loving God supremely leads to loving others genuinely (v. 31).

- Why should I love my neighbor?
 - We are commanded to.
 - We are a conduit of God's love.
- How am I to love my neighbor?
 - Give compassionate care and treat them justly (Leviticus 19:10-18; Lk. 10:25-27).
 - Share the gospel with humility (Lev. 19:33-34).

Leviticus 19:33–34 “When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. 34 You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

- Are you loving others genuinely?

B. Loving God and others is more important than all sacrifices (vv. 32-33).

Proverbs 21:3 To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.

Hosea 6:6 For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

C. Knowing the bible does not mean you know God (v. 34).

The ultimate issue in relation to Jesus Christ is not one of semantics (the meaning of words) but of homage (the attitude of the heart), not whether our tongue can subscribe to an orthodox formulation of the person of Jesus, but whether our knowledge has bowed before his majesty. Beside, reverence always precedes understanding. We shall know him only if we are willing to obey him. John Stott

III. Submit to Christ Completely (12:35-37)

A. Christ's humanity (v. 35)

- The Jews believed that the Messiah would come through the lineage of David.

John 7:41–42 Others said, “This is the Christ.” But some said, “Is the Christ to come from Galilee? 42 Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?”

B. Christ's deity (v. 36-37)

Romans 1:1–4 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, 3 concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 4 and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,

- Christ challenges the scribes' inadequate view of him.

The old "imperial vision" shouted by the crowds needs correcting. Jesus does not wield the political and military authority of David, yet he is greater than the great king of Israel. The kingdom that he brings is greater than that of "our father David"; it is the kingdom of the Father. Garland, D. E. - *Mark*, p. 478

C. Christ's sovereignty (v. 36c)

The symbolic statement that Jesus is 'at God's right hand' comprises the two great gospel affirmations that he is Savior (with authority to bestow salvation) and that he is Lord (with authority to demand submission). John Stott

- Are you submitting to Christ the Lord?