

The Supreme Commandment Mark 12:29-31

“What Does It Mean to Love God Completely”

Jesus quotes from two Old Testament passages, Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and Leviticus 19:18.

Mark 12:29-31 – “Jesus answered, ‘The foremost is, ‘Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; 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.’”

Matthew quotes Jesus as adding this statement: **“On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 22:40).**

What Does it Mean to Love God with All Our Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength?

We first need to know how God defines “love.” The Hebrew word is **ahab** and means to **have affection for, desire, delight in, or be fond of**. It implies an ardent inclination of the mind and a tenderness of affection, and denotes a strong emotional attachment for and a **desire to be in the presence of the object of love**. The Greek word is **agapaō**, to **have a preference for, or to wish well; to regard the welfare of. It is to take pleasure in; to prize it above other things; to be unwilling to abandon it or do without it; to welcome with desire; to long for**.

1. We Are to Love God with an _____ Love (Matthew 6:24)

2. We Are to Love God with a _____ Love (Matthew 10:37-39)

A surpassing love for God can keep us from trading away an eternity with Him for a few short years of pleasure here on earth.

3. We Are to Love God with an _____ Love. (John 14:21, 23-24)

4. We Are to Love God with a _____ Love (James 1:12)

- We love God with all our _____ when we love Him exclusively, Him and Him alone.
- We love God with all our _____ when we find our satisfaction in Him more than any other person or thing.
- We love God with all our _____ when we make decisions to obey His every command.
- We love God with all our _____ when we persevere in the face of every trial.

How are you loving God today?

Application:

This means that **the covenant love we're called to must be wholehearted, life-encompassing, community-impacting, exclusive commitment to our God.** And this God is our God only because he has now revealed himself to us in the person of his Son. This kind of love we should have for him doesn't exist apart from love for Jesus — for Jesus and the Father are one (John 10:30).

This truth means that every closet of our lives needs to be opened for cleaning, and every relationship in our lives must be influenced. This call to love God this way destroys any option of being one person at church and another person on a date. What you do on the internet needs to be just as pure as what you do in Bible-reading. The way we talk to our parents needs to be as wholesome as the way we talk to our pastors.

There needs to be an authentic love for God that starts with God-oriented affections, desires, and thoughts, that permeates our speaking and behavior, and then influences the way we spend our money and how we dress, and drive, and our forms of entertainment. Whether we're eating or singing, jogging or blogging, texting or drawing, love for Yahweh — the one true triune God — is to be in action and seen.