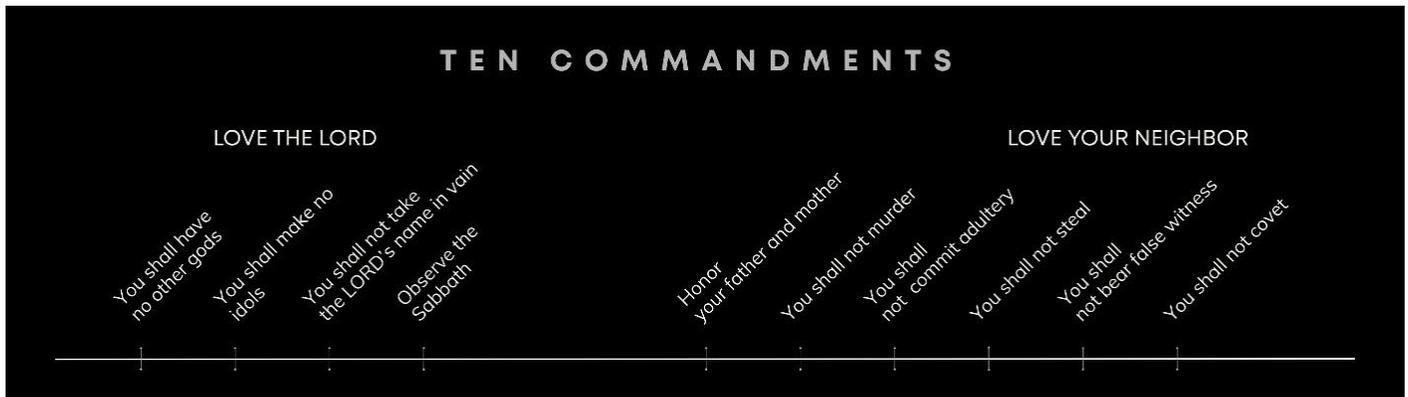


# Love for Others – The Fruit of Worship

Matthew 22:35-40

**Mat. 22:35-40** And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?’ And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.’

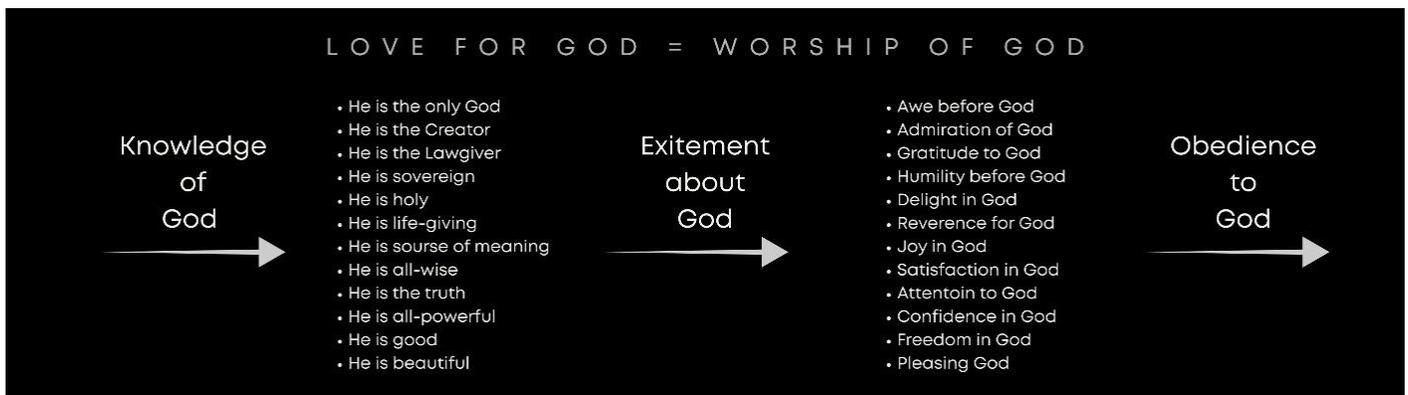


*Love is the very essence of a creature's heartfelt disposition toward its Creator.*

*Only the creation, fashioned in the image and likeness of its Creator, possesses the capacity for love.*

## I. Where Does Love for Our Neighbor Come From?

**Deut. 6:4-5** Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. **You shall love the LORD your God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.



## A. Worship Begins in the Mind

**Deut. 6:4-5** Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall **love the LORD** your God **with all your heart** and with all your soul and with all your might.

**Deut. 6:4-5** Hear, O Israel: **The LORD our God, the LORD is one.** You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

- **He alone is God. All others are not gods.**

**Deut. 6:4** Hear, O Israel: **The LORD our God, the LORD is one.**

- **He is the Creator. Everything else is creation.**

**Gen. 1:1** In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

- **He is the Lawgiver. All others live under His law.**

**Ps. 119:90-91** Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast. By your appointment they stand this day, for all things are your servants.

- **He is sovereign—possessing all authority.**

**Ps. 135:6** Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.

- **He is holy. Everything else is imperfect.**

**Is. 6:2-3** Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: **'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;** the whole earth is full of his glory!'

- **He is the source of life. Everything else depends on Him for life.**

**Ps. 36:9** For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

- **He is the meaning and purpose of existence. Everything else finds its purpose in Him.**

**Acts 17:26-27** And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us.

- **He is the author of all knowledge. All true wisdom comes from Him.**

**Prov. 2:6** For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

- **He is the standard of truth. All others use His point of reference.**

**Ps. 119:142** Your righteousness is righteous forever, and your law is true.

- **He is the source of strength and power. All the energy of the universe originates in Him.**

**Eph. 1:19** and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might

- **He is the source of goodness. Every true good flows from Him.**

**Ps. 135:3** Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing to his name, for it is pleasant!

- **He is the standard of beauty. All true beauty reflects His beauty.**

**Eccl. 3:11** He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

*In order to love God, we must regularly, intentionally, and deeply focus our attention and our thoughts on the various attributes of His character.*

*Love for God flows from recognizing His utterly unique position.*

**Deut. 6:4-5** Hear, O Israel: **The LORD our God**, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD **your** God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

**Jer. 31:33** For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And **I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**

## **B. Worship Engages the Emotions**

**Deut. 6:4-5** Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall **love the LORD** your God with all your heart and **with all your soul** and with all your might.

*The word "soul" – נַפְשׁוֹ – refers to life, desire, appetite, emotion, passion.*

*Soul – נַפְשׁוֹ – life, desire, appetite, emotion, passion.*

**Worship is a state of the soul driven by love for God. It is born in the knowledge of God and includes:**

- Awe before God
- Admiration of God
- Gratitude to God
- Humility before God
- Delight in God
- Reverence for God
- Joy in God
- Satisfaction in God
- Attentiveness to God
- Confidence in God
- Freedom in God
- Pleasing God

### **C. Worship Is Expressed in Love for Our Neighbor**

**Mat. 22:35-40** And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?' And he said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. **And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.'

- **Love for God necessarily leads to love for others.**
- **Love for God makes us capable of loving others.**

**1 John 5:1** Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and **everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.**

- Love for God makes the soul humble.
- Love for God makes the soul confident.
- Love for God makes the soul free.
- Love for God makes the soul content.
- Love for God makes the soul grateful.
- Love for God makes the soul obedient to Him.
- Love for God fills the soul with God's own attitude toward others.
- Love for God makes the soul capable of caring for others.

*It makes the soul to be of an excellent disposition; it is of a transforming nature. It brings on the soul some of the loveliness of the Person beloved and exceedingly to soften and sweeten the mind, and to make it meek, humble, charitable, and full of brotherly love<sup>1</sup>.*

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<sup>1</sup> Johnathan Edwards, <https://www.chapellibrary.org/book/clcfg/the-christians-love-for-christ> p. 13

**Mat. 5:44-45** But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so **that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.**

**1 John 3:14** We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.

*Your love for others grows out of your real love for God.*

*Your inability to love someone reveals a deficiency in your love for God.*

*Your genuine love for people cannot be greater than your love for God.*

*If your worship of God does not fill you with love for others, it is useless and possibly false worship.*

## II. How Do We Learn to Love Others?

**John 4:34** **My food is to do the will of him who sent me** and to accomplish his work.

**Gal. 4:4-5** But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, **born under the law**, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

*True worship of God is possible only in Christ.*

**John 14:6** I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**John 14:31** But I do as the Father has commanded me, **so that the world may know that I love the Father.** Rise, let us go from here.

**John 14:20** In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and **you in me**, and **I in you.**

**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.

**John 15:5** I am the vine; you are the branches. **Whoever abides in me** and **I in him**, **he** it is that **bears much fruit**, for apart from me you can do nothing.

**John 15:9-12** As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that **you love one another as I have loved you.**

**John 15:16-17** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and **bear fruit and that your fruit should abide**, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that **you will love one another.**

**Rev. 21:3** Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

**Rev. 22:3-4** No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

**Eph. 3:17-19** so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.