

The Law of Love

Matthew 22:37-40 & John 15:10-12

The three big, main questions for this summer class:

1. What is love for God? What is its definition?
2. Why does God command us to love, specifically to love God and neighbor?
3. What does it mean to love in the Biblical sense and how do we do it as the body of Christ?

Matthew 22:37-40 - General observations of the text initially

Small group discussion block #1 questions

Foundational Questions to keep in mind as you discuss the textual questions:

A. What is love for God? What is its definition

- **True love for God defined:** *the fully orbed response of a creature (us) to God's (who is creator) full-orbed revelation of himself in all his grace and glory. If that is the "what" of Biblical love, then the "how", and to what degree it extends to, is seen in Jesus' teaching in John 15:13; that is, out of a complete and full bodied love for God (which involves the fullest extent of use of the heart, soul, mind and strength) as a consequence of knowing God deeply out of his revelation of himself that one is willing to lay down their life for the sake of others. I believe this hearkens to the sentiment that Paul shared in Philippians 3:7-9 - all of life is rubbish in comparison to knowing God.*

B. Why does God command us to love, specifically to love God and neighbor?

Textual Questions to Matthew 22:37-40

1. **What is Jesus communicating about love in his answer? What do you observe here?**
 - **Consider how he answers:** How is the first commandment informing the second? How is the second commandment "like" the first?

2. **A bonus question of sorts (especially if your table needs to fill awkward silence after you discuss the first two): What do you observe about Matthew 22 prior to verse 34, specifically how Matthew wrote and organized this section/chapter of his gospel, that helps build some context of this instance of Matthew's recording of Jesus being asked this question?**

John 15:9-12 - General observations of the text initially

How does what Jesus says here harmonize with what he said in Matthew?

Small group discussion block #2 questions

Foundational Questions to keep in mind as you discuss the textual questions:

- A. **What is love for God? What is its definition**
 - **True love for God defined: *the right response to God's full-orbed revelation of himself in all his grace and glory.***
- B. **Why does God command us to love, specifically to love God and neighbor?**

Textual Questions to John 15:9-12

1. **How has the father loved the son and what does this say about Christ's love for us? (What Biblical support can you give for your answer?)**
2. **Considering verse 12: How has Jesus loved his disciples? What does that say about His love for us?**
3. **Considering what we have observed in Matthew 22:37-40 and here in John 15, why does God Command us to love God and neighbor and how do we do this?**