

DISCIPLES WHO LOVE GOD

Matthew 22:34-40

From Pastor Phillip

IBC exists to exalt God by making Christ-like disciples who love God, his Word, his people, and his world.

This is not only IBC's mission statement. This is the mission God calls all believers to follow; it is not optional. Today we will discuss how we can be disciples and make disciples who *love God*. Loving God is the greatest commandment because loving God is the greatest thing you could ever do with your life.

I. A Good Question (vv.34-36)

- A. An intelligent questioner (v.35a)
- B. A tricky questioner (v.35b)
- C. A valid question (v.36)

II. The Greatest Commandment (vv.37-40)

- A. Love God personally (v.37a)
- B. Love God wholeheartedly (v.37b)

III. Good Questions about the Greatest Commandment

Q1: How do I know if I love God?

- *If you've been born again, you love God* (Deut. 30:6, 1 Cor. 16:22)

Q2: How can I grow in my love for God?

- *Ask God to grow your love for Him* (Matt. 7:11)
- *Meditate on God's love for you* (Ephesians 3:18-19)
- *Tell God you love him* (Psalm 18:1)

Q3: How can I show my love for God?

- *Give Allegiance to God* (Mark 12:29-30)
- *Express Affection for God*

TO DISCUSS WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS:

1. How can we discern if we merely have an intellectual knowledge about God, or if we have a real loving relationship with God?
2. Do you think it's possible for people to be "religious" without truly loving God?
3. What are some other ways we can practically grow in our love for God?
4. Meditate on God's love for you – share some truths about God's love for you that amaze you.
5. How can we help disciple other people to love God personally and wholeheartedly?

FOR NEXT TIME— 2 Timothy 2:15, Ephesians 4:11-12, & 1 Peter 3:15, *Love God's Word*