



JESUS, PART 11: ONE COMMANDMENT

Jesus didn't come to initiate Judaism 2.0. He came to offer something entirely new to the world: a new covenant that would forever change humankind's relationship with God. And with that new covenant came a new ethic—one that insisted that the greatest choose the back of the line.

THE BIG IDEA: "As I have loved you, love one another."

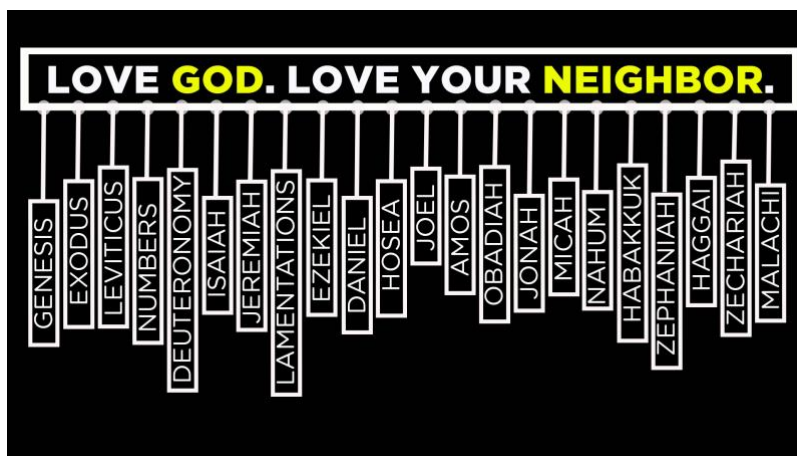
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Has a leader in your life—a parent, teacher, coach, or boss—ever put your needs ahead of their own? If so, what impression did that leader leave on you?
2. With your Bible or Bible App, [read Matthew 22:34–40](#).

³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees with his reply, they met together to question him again. ³⁵ One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?" ³⁷ Jesus replied, "'**You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.**' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'⁴⁰ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."

[Matthew 22:34–40 \(NLT\)](#)

3. Jesus presented a radical change in how the faithful should understand their relationship with God and one another. Faith is expressed in your vertical relationship with God and your horizontal relationships with people. If you took it to heart, how would taking Jesus' new command change the way you view faith?
4. During the message, Chris said, "Love for God is best illustrated, demonstrated, and authenticated by love for others." What would it look like if we truly loved one another the way Jesus has loved us?
5. Jesus said that the law and the prophets all hung on these 2 commands: "Love God and love your neighbor." What do you think Jesus is communicating to the expert in the religious law?



6. With your Bible or Bible App, [read John 13:34-35](#).

³⁴ So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. ³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

[John 13:34-35 \(NLT\)](#)

7. The new covenant has one command: “As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” How does this new command make following Jesus less complicated but more demanding than obeying the old covenant?
8. Chris said, “*The New Testament is not full of a bunch of rules. The New Testament is full of one rule with hundreds of applications.*” Do you agree or disagree? Why?



9. In the parable of the Good Samaritan ([Luke 10:25-37](#)), Jesus redefined “neighbor” to include everyone we come into contact with. We all know people who are difficult to love. What does love require of you as you interact with that person?
10. With your Bible or Bible App, [read Ephesians 5:1–2](#).
 - ¹ Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. ² Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God. [Ephesians 5:1–2 \(NLT\)](#)
11. What is one thing you can do this week to live out Jesus’ new command by extending the kind of grace to the people around you that Jesus extended to you? If you followed through, how do you think it might change the dynamic in your family, at work, in your friendships, and even in your relationship with God?

MOVING FORWARD

Against all odds, a cult following a crucified teacher with no territory, military, or authority survived and multiplied. They were fueled by Jesus’ new command: “As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” It sounds as countercultural and revolutionary to our ears as it did to Jesus’ disciples when they first heard it. It’s way less complicated than the old covenant, but way more challenging.

WEEKLY READING

Spend some time this week reading and reflecting on Matthew 22:15–16, 24–25, 33–40; John 13: 34–35; and Ephesians 5:1–2.