

The Greatest Commandment

July 27, 2025



The Greatest Commandment



- **Mark 12:28–31 (NIV) — 28** One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” **29** “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. **30** Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ **31** The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

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- **Matthew 22:37–40 (NIV) — 37** Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ **38** This is the first and greatest commandment. **39** And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ **40** All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

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Life Has Rules and Boundaries; Laws and Commandments:

- They make life better and help us to function well.
- We need to know them
- We need to build our lives around them.

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- The Bible has instructions on how to build our lives according to the directions That come from God.
- These are things that are important and significant.
- We need to know what to do and what not to do
- Following God's Instruction Is a Valuable Choice For Us

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- We need to find out what is required?
- What is the most important command of God?
- (Mark 12:28 NIV)“...Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”
- Jesus reveals an irrefutable truth.
- The greatest commandment of all is to love God with everything in you

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- While This teacher of the law was stuck on issues of the letter of the law.
- Jesus wanted to deal with the spirit of the law.
- More important than outer actions (perfection) are the inner actions of the heart.

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- Jesus Knew That This is The Question of The Ages
- The Question: "God, What Is Required Of Me?"
- (Mark 12:29-31 NIV) "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. (30) 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 Greatest Commandment



- It's Not Just “A” Commandment, It Is “The” Commandment
- The Most Important, First & Greatest Commandment To Love God
- To Love God Is The Key Boundary, The Central Requirement Of What Is Expected & Acceptable
- It's A Priority & It Is A Guideline To A Successful Life

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- Do you love God with everything in you?
- Jesus said, of all the commandments -- this is the most important one!

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- How Do We Love God?
- The First 4 Of The 10 Commandments Are About How To Love And Honor God
- The Last 6 Are About How To Love And Honor Fellow Man
- God Asks Of All His Followers To Have A Devoted Love

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- (MK 12:30 NIV) (30) 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 Love Of God Starts With The Heart
- The True Love Of God Requires An Attitude Of The Heart Where He Is The #1 Priority In Life

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To Love God With All Of Our Hearts Means:

- A. We Have Chosen To Value And Esteem God
- B. We Long For His Fellowship -- To Be With Him
- C. We Strive To Obey And Honor Him
- D. We Find And Fulfill His Will For Our Lives

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As We Love God There Are Benefits That Show Up

- *Is known by God--1st Cor 8: 3*
- *Receives the crown of life --Jas 1:12*
- *Receives the promise of his Kingdom--Jas 2: 5*
- *Receives all the things that God has prepared for them--1 Cor. 2: 9*
- *All things work together for those who love God*
- *They will be conformed to the image of the Son--Rom 8 28-30.*

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HOW DO WE KNOW IF WE LOVE GOD?

- *We live for him and adopt his standards for our lives*
- *We promote and build up his Kingdom*
- *We love sacrificially when it doesn't benefit us*
- *We are willing to share in his sufferings*
- *We are filled with his love, compassion, and thanksgiving*

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HOW DO WE KNOW IF WE LOVE GOD?

- *We do what we do all that we do for His glory*
- *We honor God with our bodies*
- *We don't grieve His Spirit*
- *We imitate His love and share it on His behalf*
- *We love our families, brothers, and neighbors*

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WHEN WE LOVE GOD:

- *We live to worship and praise Him*
- *We love to put Him first*
- *We want to please Him*
- *We want to obey Him*
- *We delight to do His will*

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LOVING GOD IS MORE THAN AN EMOTION OR A FEELING

- *It is a decision to set our affections & attention on Him*
- *We decide to love, accept, and pursue God*
- *A hunger for holiness*
- *We say no to self-pride*
- *We say yes to God in every part of our lives*

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HOW IMPORTANT IS IT FOR US TO LOVE GOD?

- To Love God Is The First Step In Being Able To Love
- 1 John 3:14 (NIV) — 14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death.

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- MANY PEOPLE GO THROUGH LIFE LOOKING FOR MEANING
- It Is Found When We Enter Into Relationship w/God
- It Is At It's Essence A Decision To Love God

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AS WE CONNECT TO HIM BY LOVE WE DISCOVER:

- Love Brings Meaning
- **1 John 4:7–8 (NIV)** — 7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.
- **1 John 4:12 (NIV)** — 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

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LOVE CAN OVERCOME SELF-CENTEREDNESS

- Love Makes Life Livable
- To Love & Be Loved Is A Built-in, Pre-programmed Need.
- The More Love We Give -- The More Meaning We Have In Life

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- **1 John 3:14 (NIV)** — 14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death.
- God's Love Brings Meaning To Us & To Others
- To Love Is One Of Our Reasons For Being

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To Love God With Everything In Us Is The Greatest Command Scripture

- To love God with everything means:
- *ALL OF our Heart -- our inner man-The real me, (inside)*
- *ALL OF our Soul -- our conscious life*
- *ALL OF our Mind -- our intellectual nature*
- *ALL OF our Strength -- our energies--bodily power and will*

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QUESTIONS THAT TELL US WHETHER WE LOVE GOD

- *Is the Lord the all-consuming passion of my life?*
- *Do I have a deep intense and abiding affection for my Lord?*
- *Am I loyal to God with an exclusive love?*
- *Do I resist & oppose anything that seeks to do my Lord harm?*
- *Am I zealous to, with grace, defend my Lord's name and honor?*

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QUESTIONS THAT TELL US WHETHER WE LOVE GOD

- *Do I enjoy spending time with the Lord?*
- *Do I brag on the Lord to others?*
- *Do I do things that please the Lord and increase his joy?*
- *Do I tell the Lord that I love Him?*
- *Do I talk to him as much as I can?*
- Daniel Aiken

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WHAT IS OUR RESPONSE TO GREATEST COMMANDMENT?

- Receive Christ
 - Respond To Christ
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1. OCCUPY
 2. PERSUE
 3. FAN INTO FLAMES