

Strength in Love Begins with Loving God

Mark 12:30

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

Introduction:

- ◆ Do you know that your life grows at the speed of your love?
- ◆ Love makes you vulnerable or vital,
- ◆ Your love is only as healthy as the people you love.
- ◆ Your love is only as strong as the people who are faithful to it.
- ◆ The people you love will change who you are.

*“Loving God is different than loving anyone else. Humans by nature are takers when they love and often leave the one they loved exhausted. God never expresses love that He doesn’t give. “For God so loved the world that he gave. . .
John 3:16”*

Isaiah 38:17 Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back.

The Proof of God’s Love In Us:

I John 2:5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

I John 3:17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

I John 4:20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

I. We are to love the Lord with all the enlightenment of our head. (V.30)

Karl Barth was a Swiss theologian who is often regarded as the greatest Protestant theologian of the twentieth century.

A student asked Barth if he could summarize his whole life’s work in theology in a sentence. Barth said, “Yes, I can. In the words of a song I learned at my mother’s knee: **“Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.”**

A. We love Him with our heads by meditation.

Mark 12:30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God . . . and with all thy mind,

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

B. We love Him with our heads by motivation.

Mark 12:30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God . . . with all thy mind,

Jeremiah 20:9 Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.

Luke 24:32 And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us,

II. We are to love the Lord with all the emotions of our heart. (V.30)

“Loving God will both guard and protect our emotions from counterfeit love.”

A. We are to love Him with great admiration.

Mark 12:30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul,

Why is loving God with all our heart so critical?

- ◆ Because whatever we love the most captivates our hearts.
Matthew 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: (V.21) For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.
- ◆ Because whatever we love the most determines our future.
Colossians 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. (V.2) Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.
- ◆ Because whatever we love, we become vulnerable to, persuaded by and loyal to its causes.
Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. (Anything you love more that God is an idol!)
- ◆ Because the presence of love in our life proves the presence of a deep knowledge of God.
1 John 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

B. We are to love Him with great inspiration.

Mark 12:30 *And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul,*

To love Him with all your soul is to love Him through the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love,*

“It is an extraordinary thing to feel the Holy Spirit’s help in loving God. It is a moment of love that will surpass all the love you have ever felt.”

**III. We are to love the Lord with all the energy of our hands.
(V.30)**

“In other words, we are to love God with the totality of our being. It’s one thing to claim that you love God. It’s another thing to demonstrate it through everything you think, say, and do.” - Tony Evans

A. We love Him with our hands by surrendering our abilities to Him.

Mark 12:30 . . . and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

“You don’t go very far in this world that you don’t run into someone who is attempting to express love to our Lord; song writers, artists, poets, and playwrights . . . etc”

Philippians 3:8 *Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,* (Paul’s extraordinary measures to know Christ reveals His desire to have an intimate knowledge of Christ’s love.)

B. We love Him with our hands by surrendering our actions to Him.

Mark 12:30 . . . and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

Joshua 24:15 *And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*

