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Pastor Keith Tower

And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”<sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment.  
Matthew 22:37-38

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.<sup>5</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.<sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.<sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.<sup>8</sup> Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.<sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.<sup>10</sup> When the Lord your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build,<sup>11</sup> houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied,<sup>12</sup> be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.<sup>13</sup> Fear the Lord your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name. Deuteronomy 6:4-13

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### Let's Connect

- Are you easily distracted? How's your attention span?

### Let's Talk About It

The first and greatest command is to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind. This can be challenging when so many things are competing for our attention and attempting to distract us from our devotion to God. As we identify the things that draw our devotion away from Christ, we can be vigilant in maintaining Christ as our primary focus and place of affection.

Matthew 22:37-38; Deuteronomy 6:4-13

- Which part of the message impacted and challenged you?
- Read Matthew 22:37-38. What does it look like to love God with all your heart and soul?
- What does it look like to love God with all your mind?
- What are some things that compete for your love and devotion to God? How can you protect yourself against an unhealthy devotion to things that draw you from God?
- Read Deuteronomy 6:4-13. What is one practical step you can “take care” (Deut. 6:12) to keep the love of God first in your life?

### Take a Step

- What is one thing from the message you can put into practice this week?

### Here's My Prayer

Lord Jesus, I love You. Take Your rightful place as Lord over every area of my life. Forgive me for allowing distractions to shift my focus from complete devotion to You. You are the name above all names. No one is like You, and nothing compares to the greatness of who You are. In Jesus' name, amen.