

August 29, 2020

The Greatest Commandment

The simple test of my heart and my actions

Mark 12:28-31

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.'³² There is no commandment greater than these."

Love. It is to be at the center of all we do. There is much **to** do as a follower of Christ, but this explanation of the greatest commandment given by Christ helps us more simply get our minds around the task.

Ask yourself: Does what I am doing (or about to do) show God that I love him with all of me?

If I identify my actions as more loving of myself than of God, pause, re-evaluate and make any necessary correction.

Similarly, ask yourself: Does what I am doing (about to do) show my love for others at least on par with how much I love myself?

Again, if the answer to this question reveals a selfishness, pause, re-adjust, and make corrections.

It may be the adjustment of actions, or it may be deeper than that. Do I want to please God by loving and obeying him? Do I want to see God working in my life as I love my neighbors in sacrificial ways? If the **want** isn't there, some time with the Lord letting him soften and transform your heart is critical. If the **want** is there, but some other struggle holds you back, an attachment to a habit or possession may need to be broken. God will help you in any of the transformative ways necessary. Go to him and let him work in you.

As we embark upon this adventure in front of us as a church, let the simplicity of Christ's greatest commandment categories serve you well.

Do my actions demonstrate that I love God? Good.

Do my actions demonstrate that I love my neighbor? Good.

Do my actions suggest I have too much affection for something other than God and neighbor?

Pause, reflect, ask God to help, and shift into obedience.

Following these simple steps will lead you into a life of greater satisfaction and joy with the expectation of treasure in heaven far beyond any sacrifice required here.