

February 14, 2021
Matthew 22:34-40

LOVE: THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

I. Introduction:

Happy Valentines Day!

“God is love”. I John 4:8

Illustration of a New Pastor at a New Church

II. Unpacking The Passage

1. The Context – See Matthew 22:23-33

- Sadducees:
- Pharisees:

2. Today’s Text: Matthew 22:34-40

³⁴Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

³⁷Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’

³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

3. The First and Greatest Commandment:

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with **all your heart** and with **all your soul** and with **all your mind.**’

³⁸This is the **first and greatest commandment.**”

Matthew 22:37-38

10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just **one** point is guilty of breaking all of it.” James 2:10

4. The Second Greatest Command

³⁹And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Matthew 22:39

Love a recurring theme in the Bible:

"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 for God is love." I John 4:7-8

"A new commandment I give you: Love one another. **As I have loved you**, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another." John 13:34-35

3 Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? ²**You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone.**

³You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts." 2 Corinthians 3:1-3

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸Love never fails. I Corinthians 13:4-8

"The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Galatians 5:14

III. Conclusion and Application:

- Does the love of God dwell within you?
- Does God's love characterize what you do, what you say, and why you do it?