

March 15, 2015
Matthew 22:34-40

A GREAT COMMITMENT TO THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

I. Introduction:

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

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

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.”

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.**’

³⁸ This 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

³⁹ And 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

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love 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?

For Further Study

This week read and meditate on Matthew 22:34-40. Take 5-10 minutes each day to ask yourselves the following questions.

Explore It: (Questions related to the text)

- 1) Who heard that the Sadducees had been embarrassed by Jesus? How did they respond? ([22:34](#))
- 2) What did the Pharisees do? Why? ([22:34](#))
- 3) What sort of person was selected to address Jesus? ([22:35](#))
- 4) What was the Pharisee's purpose in asking Jesus a question? ([22:35](#))
- 5) What specific question did the man ask Jesus? ([22:36](#))
- 6) How did Jesus answer the Pharisee's question? ([22:37](#))
- 7) What kind of love did Jesus describe? ([22:37](#))
- 8) What important footnote did Jesus add to His answer? ([22:39](#))
- 9) What kind of love for one's neighbor did Jesus require? ([22:39](#))
- 10) How important did Jesus say these two principles were? ([22:40](#))

Get It: (These questions help answer the question, "So What?" These questions relate the scripture to our daily lives.)

- 11) In what ways do we sometimes try to sidestep our responsibility to obey God?
- 12) How do we measure the magnitude of our love for Jesus?

Apply It: These Questions help us apply the scripture text to our daily lives)

- 13) What can you do today to love Christ with all your heart, soul, and mind?

- 14) What loving act will you plan to do soon for a neighbor in need?
- 15) How can you demonstrate your love for God?
- 16) What example has Jesus set for us to follow?
- 17) How should God's love motivate you to love others?
- 18) Who is someone that you have a difficult time getting along with that you need to ask God to help you love this week?
- 19) What does it mean for you to love people as Jesus has loved them?
- 20) What kind of love was Jesus talking about?
- 21) How is love a sign that someone is a disciple of Christ?
- 22) Who is someone you need to love as Christ has loved you?
How?
- 23) How can you show Christ's love to others at your place of work, at home, or in your neighborhood?
- 24) What steps can you take to become more loving to others