

LOVE GOD

Select Passages • March 14, 2010 • Mike Newman, Senior Pastor

March 14, 2010..... "Love God"
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GREATEST
commandment. life.

Mark 12:28-34 (NLT) ²⁸One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" ²⁹Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD.' ³⁰And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' ³¹The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these." ³²The teacher of religious law replied, "Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth by saying that there is only one God and no other. ³³And I know it is important to love him with all my heart and all my understanding and all my strength, and to love my neighbor as myself. This is more important than to offer all of the burnt offerings and sacrifices required in the law." ³⁴Realizing how much the man understood, Jesus said to him, "You are not far from the Kingdom of God." And after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Deuteronomy 11:22 (NLT) ²²"Be careful to obey all these commands I am giving you. Show love to the LORD your God by walking in his ways and holding tightly to him.

1 John 5:1-3 (NLT) ¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too. ²We know we love God's children if we love God and obey his commandments. ³Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome.

John 14:15 (NLT) ¹⁵"If you love me, obey my commandments.

Mark 10:17-31 (NLT) ¹⁷As Jesus was starting out on his way to Jerusalem, a man came running up to him, knelt down, and asked, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸"Why do you call me good?" Jesus asked. "Only God is truly good. ¹⁹But to answer your question, you know the commandments: 'You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. You must not cheat anyone. Honor your father and mother.' " ²⁰"Teacher," the man replied, "I've obeyed all these commandments since I was young." ²¹Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. "There is still one thing you haven't done," he told him. "Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." ²²At this the man's face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions. ²³Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to

What does it mean for us to Love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength?

Five Biblical Truths About Loving God:

1) Loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength means that we will _____ to and following His teachings for our lives.

- See Deuteronomy 11:22, 1 John 5:1-3, and John 14:15

Loving God is more than just an emotion or feeling we have about God.

Obedience does not require perfection.

2) Loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength means that nothing in our life is _____

- See Mark 10:17-31 and Matthew 10:37-39
- Two great questions to ask are What does God think about this (whatever it is) and What would God want me to do?

Loving God means the total submission of everything in our life.

3) Loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength means we will _____

- See 1 John 4:20-21

Loving God means you are living a lifestyle of love for others.

enter the Kingdom of God!" ²⁴This amazed them. But Jesus said again, "Dear children, it is very hard to enter the Kingdom of God. ²⁵In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!" ²⁶The disciples were astounded. "Then who in the world can be saved?" they asked. ²⁷Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God." ²⁸Then Peter began to speak up. "We've given up everything to follow you," he said. ²⁹"Yes," Jesus replied, "and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property, for my sake and for the Good News, ³⁰will receive now in return a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property—along with persecution. And in the world to come that person will have eternal life. ³¹But many who are the greatest now will be least important then, and those who seem least important now will be the greatest then."

Matthew 10:37-39 (NLT) ³⁷If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine. ³⁸If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. ³⁹If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.

1 John 4:20-21 (NLT) ²⁰If someone says, "I love God," but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? ²¹And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their Christian brothers and sisters.

Deuteronomy 30:16 (NLT) ¹⁶For I command you this day to love the LORD your God and to keep his commands, decrees, and regulations by walking in his ways. If you do this, you will live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you and the land you are about to enter and occupy.

Deuteronomy 30:20 (NLT) ²⁰You can make this choice by loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This is the key to your life. And if you love and obey the LORD, you will live long in the land the LORD swore to give your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

Romans 8:28-29 (NLT) ²⁸And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. ²⁹For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

Proverbs 8:17 (NLT) ¹⁷"I love all who love me. Those who search will surely find me.

Proverbs 8:21 (NLT) ²¹Those who love me inherit wealth. I will fill their treasuries.

4) Loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength means we have a _____ to know God and have a relationship with Him.

Loving God is a heart issue that has an emotional aspect to it.

Loving God includes both doing and emotion.

5) Loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength has _____ and brings blessings to our lives.

- See Deuteronomy 30:16, Deuteronomy 30:20, Romans 8:28-29, Proverbs 8:17, and Proverbs 8:21

How are you doing at Loving God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength?

What do you need to do in response to today's message?

For more information about what it means to become a follower of Christ or what to do after you make a decision to follow Jesus, speak to one of the pastors or elders following the service today (they can be found by the prayer room in the church lobby) or contact the church office at 717-762-7147 to set up an appointment. You may also request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey on our website:

www.otterbeinchurch.org

