

The LORD's Law of Love

Matthew 22:34-39

The Highest Law – how I must love _____ (36-38)

● The Laws in the Old Testament?

1. The _____ Commandments, dietary laws, ceremonial laws, civil laws, criminal laws, s_____ laws, etc.
2. What was more important – not taking the Lord's name in vain or not worshipping idols?
3. Jesus's answer reveals a principle law in which all the other laws of the O.T. were built upon.

● Deut 6:5 – *You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.*

1. This is the s_____ point of all the laws
 - a. If one does not love God fully but obeys the law of sacrifices, he has not fulfilled the i_____ of the law which was to bring about repentance from sin and devotion to God.
 - b. A person must fulfill a law out of l_____ for God, otherwise they have not fulfilled the law.
2. The depth of our love for God involves my _____ being (my whole heart, soul, and mind)
3. The Greek translation of the word love refers to an unselfish a_____ done for the good of another.

● What does this mean for us?

1. List some things might compete with God's love?
 - a. M_____ (Matt 6:24) – I must not serve money, but serve God with my money.
 - b. F_____ that cause us to be less devoted to God is not worth it.
 - c. We must serve God IN our friendships, IN our success, IN our.... If we can't, X those things out!

The Second Highest Law – how I must love my _____ (39,40)

● The definition of “neighbor”

1. When this law was given, the people of Israel were not in the Promised land, but were always on the m_____.

2. Therefore, a neighbor was not originally a person who l_____ nearby, but anyone who WAS nearby.
3. Jesus also told a parable of the Good Samaritan to fine tune the definition of “neighbor” (Luke 10:30-37). When you see a person in need:
 - a. A_____ them does not get around the law.
 - b. Coming n_____ to them to meet their need is required.
 - c. Anyone who is around me and anyone whom I am around is my n_____.

●Loving someone as myself

1. Some jump on this verse to state that we have to learn to love ourselves before we can love others as ourselves. This is an unbiblical starting point
 - a. It is n_____ to love yourself (Eph 5:29).
 - b. It is unnatural to h_____ yourself.
2. The starting point with a “self” problem is not “self” but G_____.
 - a. If I have an unhealthy view of myself it is because I have failed to accept God’s view – I am not loving God with ALL my m_____.
 - b. Loving God fully (heart, soul, mind) solves every “self” problem.

●How do I love those around me?

1. L_____ for opportunities to do good (comes about by conversation – e.g. of good include encouragement, prayer, information.
2. L_____ for opportunities to do good (comes about by being observant – e.g. you notice a person’s car tire is flat).

Two Questions to meditate on and a challenge to meet

●Questions

1. What demonstrates that I love God fully?
2. What am I doing about those things that are keeping me from loving God fully?

●Challenge – every day do something for the good of someone around you (strangers, friends, or even family members)