

## Gleanings from the Pentateuch

### *The Heart of Holiness* (Leviticus 19)

## Heart of Holiness

Leviticus 19:9-18

- *“love your neighbor as yourself”*
  - concern for the poor and the foreigner
  - not stealing or dealing falsely
  - not oppressing the needy
  - doing no injustice
  - not taking revenge or holding a grudge

## Heart of Holiness

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

And He said to him, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. This is the great and foremost commandment.

The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’

On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

– Matthew 22:36-40

## Heart of Holiness

“Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.

For this, ‘YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET;’ and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’

Love does no wrong to a neighbor; love is therefore the fulfillment of the law.”

– Romans 13:8-10

## Heart of Holiness

### 1. Nature of the Command

- *“Love your neighbor as yourself”*
  - *Assumption* – every person, without exception, has an innate love for themselves
  - Our self-seeking is to be the measure of our self-giving
  - *Irony* – loving others to the degree we love ourselves results in a selfless love

## Heart of Holiness

### 2. New Covenant Application

- *“Love your neighbor as yourself”*

## Heart of Holiness

“You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.’

But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you

in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good...

For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax-gatherers do the same?

And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?”

– Matthew 5:43-47

## Heart of Holiness

### 2. New Covenant Application

➤ “Love *your neighbor* as yourself”

- your neighbor includes your “enemy” – those who don’t love you, who persecute you, who are not believers (Luke 10:29-37)
- you love them by praying for them, practicing acts of kindness for them, greeting them

## Heart of Holiness

**Q:** What is our motivation and resource for this kind of love?

**A:** Our love for and satisfaction in God

- We love because He first loved us
- We love because our desires are satisfied forever in our eternal reward