



The Gospel of Matthew

"The Greatest Commandment" Matthew 22:34-40

But when the Pharisees heard that He had put the Sadducees to silence, they gathered themselves together.

And one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him,

"Teacher, which is the great 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 22:34-40



The Greatest Commandment

➤ *"depend the whole Law and the Prophets"*

- nothing in Scripture can cohere or be truly obeyed unless these two are observed
- the entire biblical revelation demands "heart religion" marked by total allegiance to God



The Greatest Commandment

1. "Love the Lord your God..."

- *a whole-hearted love* – we are to love God with our whole self (affections, will, mind)
- *an exclusive love* – no other competing loves or functional "gods" (i.e. "idolatry")
- *an obedient love* – the primary expression of this love is glad-hearted obedience to God



The Greatest Commandment

2. "Love Your Neighbor..."

Q: *why does Jesus include this command?*

- love for others is the necessary and visible manifestation of love for God (1 John 4:20)
- loving your neighbor as yourself summarizes and fulfills the Law (Rom. 13:8-9)



The Greatest Commandment

2. "Love Your Neighbor..."

➤ *the nature of this command*

- our innate self-seeking is to be the measure of our self-giving for others
- this command cuts at the root of our corrupted self-centeredness



The Greatest Commandment

What is the resource for this love?

➤ *our love for and satisfaction in God*

- all our longings and desires are satisfied forever in God
- self-giving loves increases our joy and fulfillment in God