

Greatest Commandment



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Question

What is the greatest commandment in the law?
(Matt. 22:36)

Jesus' Answer

✦ *Matthew 22:37-40*

Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is *the* first and great commandment. And *the* second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Loving God with all your Heart

- Hebrew: "heart" refers to the core of one's being.
 - Proverbs 4:23 says, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."
 - The heart is the intellect, which produces thoughts, words, and actions. Proverbs 23:7 says, "As he [man] thinketh in his heart, so is he."

Loving God with all your Soul

"Soul" used in different ways:

- ▣ Total man
- ▣ Inner man
- ▣ Life

Here it may mean our emotions

- ▣ Matthew 26:38 Jesus says, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful."

Loving God with all your Mind

- # 1 the mind as a faculty of understanding, feeling, desiring. 2 understanding. 3 mind, i.e. spirit, way of thinking and feeling. 4 thoughts, either good or bad (Strong)

What Does it Mean to Love God?

Jno. 14:23

- Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me."

What Does it Mean to Love God?

1 Jno. 5:2-3

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.



What Does it Mean to Love God?

Obey Him!

Loving neighbor

- # The love spoken of here is the same as the first commandment. It is the love of the will, intention, and action.
- # The second commandment means to take care of someone else the same way you would take care of yourself.

Example: Rom. 13:8-10

- # Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, You shall not covet, and if *there is* any other commandment, are *all* summed up in this saying, namely, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love *is* the fulfillment of the law.