

Am I Obeying God's Greatest Commandment?

Matt. 22:34-40

I. What Is That Commandment? (Matt. 22:34-40)

•34 But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together. 35 Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, 36 ***Master, which is the great commandment in the law?*** 37 Jesus said unto him, ***Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*** 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And ***the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.*** 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

II. What Is Love?

•Greek words for "love".

–Eros → passion, love to be expressed only in the marriage bond. (Heb. 13:4)

–Storge → family love, parent for child, etc.

•Some are without natural affection.

–Philia → affection for a friend. (Heb. 13:1)

–Agape →

•Term most commonly translated "love" in N.T.

•Ultimate concern for others over self.

•Unconquerable benevolence, undefeatable goodwill. It is the position of heart, which will never seek any but the highest good for its fellowman, regardless of who they may be or how they may reciprocate. Love for those who are neither lovely or likeable. (Matt. 5:44)

III. Who Do You Love?

•We are to love God. (Matt. 22:37)

–Love is known by the actions it prompts. (I Jn. 3:18) What do our actions reveal?

•Toward his word? (Ps. 119:97; II Tim. 2:15)

•Toward the lost? (Jn. 1:40-42; 43-45)

•Toward prayer? (I Thess. 5:17)

•Toward worship? (Jn. 4:24; Heb. 10:24-25)

•Toward his commands? (Jn. 14:15; 15:14; I Jn. 5:3)

•We are to love our brethren. (Jn. 13:34-35)

–Again, will manifests itself by attitude and actions:

•Attitude of longsuffering and forbearance. (Eph. 4:1-3)

•Care and concern. (I Cor. 12:25-26)

•Forgiving spirit. (Eph. 4:32)

•Desire to restore the fallen. (Gal. 6:1)

•We are to love our neighbors. (Matt. 22:39)

–Matt. 7:12 → **12** Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

–Seek their spiritual good, the salvation of their souls. (Matt. 28:18ff; Phil. 2:15-16)

•Our Family.

–Titus 2:4 → **4** so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,

–Eph. 5:25 → **25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

•Our Enemy.

–Matt. 5:44 → **44** But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.

–Rom. 12:19-21 → **19** Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, "*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*" says the Lord. **20** Therefore

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

*If he is thirsty, give him a drink;
For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."*

IV. How Love Is Misunderstood...

- Some believe that "love" can replace obedience. (Jn. 14:15; Acts 10:47-48)
- Some believe that it is okay to sin, if it is the "loving" thing to do. (Rev. 21:8; I Cor. 6:9-11)
- Some believe that it is not "loving" to discipline their children. (Heb. 12:6; Prov. 13:24)
- Some view love as merely a all-tolerant, sentimentalism. (II Jn. 9-11)