

THE TWO GREAT COMMANDMENTS

INTRO

“Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 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. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets,” Matthew 22:36-40.

Throughout the Scriptures we are told to do many things all of which are important to our walk with the Lord. The Lord desires our prayers, our faithfulness, our service, but above all else, He desires our love, devotion, and affection.

I. The First Great Commandment.

- A. The greatest commandment of all is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our soul, all our strength, and then love our neighbor as ourself.
 - 1. It is only as our love is wholly centered on the Lord that He can safely send us out to serve.
 - 2. It is as our love is centered on the Lord, there flows from within us a burden and compassion to serve human needs.
 - 3. It was once said, "The fruit of a Christian is another Christian," meaning that we should be producing other Christians.
 - a. But the fruit of a Christian is a Christian life, and the fruit of a Christian life is another Christian.
 - b. People should be attracted and drawn to the Christian life we live and then accept Jesus.
 - 4. If we are not living the life, if the Light is not shining out of us, then no one will be drawn to our darkness.
 - 5. If everything about you were known, would it break God's heart or the Christian community's heart?
 - 6. We need to start living the life and walk worthy of our calling as saints and Christians.
- B. We are to love God with:
 - 1. All our heart. Wholeheartedly, not halfhearted going through the motions; from the heart comes all initiative, ambition and desire, all of these should be centered in love to Him.
 - 2. All our soul. Single-minded and not double-minded, totally focused with our entire being toward God without distraction.
 - 3. All our mind. All our thoughts, are we loving God in our thought life, are we thinking thoughts about God or about ourselves?

II. The Second Great Commandment.

- A. “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another,” John 13:34, 35.
 - 1. The second commandment is to love our neighbor as ourselves. These two fulfill all the righteous, holy things God said in the law and all of what God said through the prophets.
 - 2. Our love for one another will draw men to God. Our love for one another is a witness.
 - 3. Our love for one another will give men knowledge that we are followers of Jesus. Very often the world cannot hear what we are "saying" because of what they are "seeing."

4. Our love for God is evidenced by the love we have for one another. How can we say we love God whom we cannot see if we cannot love those who we can see 1 John 4:20, 21.
 5. Our love for one another will be seen in the frequency, quality, and commitment to fellowship with members of the Body. When we love God we love God's people.
- B. Fervent love should be our most outstanding characteristic 1 Peter 4:8.
1. As Christians, we are like live coals, when kept close together, they burn brightly and give off warmth. When they are isolated and set apart from one another, they cool off and the fire eventually goes out.
 2. Fervent love means "white heated." Metal when heated to its boiling point is said to turn white.
 3. Anyone who came into a room where metal was heated to its boiling point would eventually feel its influence.