

# The Great Commandment



Matthew 22:37-40 (NKJV)

"[37] Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' [38] This is the first and great commandment. [39] And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' [40] On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Let's explore three key truths from this passage:

## 1. We are to Love God

The first and greatest commandment is to love God wholeheartedly.

Matthew 22:37-38 "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."

Deuteronomy 6:5 "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength."

Our love for God is a response to His great love for us, shown most clearly through Jesus Christ.

## 2. We are to Love Others

The second commandment is inseparable from the first: loving others.

Matthew 22:39 "And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'"

Loving others means showing kindness, compassion, and selflessness. It's an outward expression of our love for God.

John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

## 3. Love Fulfills the Law and Prophets

Jesus declares that love is the foundation of all God's commands.

Matthew 22:40

"On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Romans 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 neighbour as yourself.' Love does no harm to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilment of the law."

Galatians 5:14 "For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself.""

## Discussion Questions

1. What does it look like to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind?
2. Why is loving others so closely connected to loving God?
3. How can you demonstrate love in practical ways this week?