

more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?..."
Matthew 5:43-48 (ESV)

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:19-21 (ESV).

4. The Response Of The Scribe.

And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions. Mark 12:32-34 (ESV)

Life Group Questions

1. Read Mark 12:28-34. How do the two commandments given by Jesus summarize the Ten Commandments and simplify obedience to all of God's Word? Read Exodus 20:1-17. Briefly discuss how each of the Ten Commandments is rooted in loving God or loving people and expand beyond themselves.
2. Why is it essential to know God loves us with His whole heart for us to love Him with every fiber of our being?
3. Our culture has a different perspective on what it looks like to love our neighbor. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. How do these verses challenge the version of love we see in culture today? What might it look like to love your neighbor, co-worker or family member in the way these verses tell us?
4. How do these verses help us understand what it means to love God? See 1 John 2:3-6, 9-11. 1 John 3:14-18, 23-24.
5. Kurt talked about the importance of spending time with God in the Bible to keep our love for God warm. What is your plan for Bible reading and spending time with God to stay in love with Him? Describe what happens in your heart when you don't spend regular time with Him at church and in the Bible.
6. Kurt gave a number of practical examples of what it means to love our neighbor. Which one is hardest for you to apply? How will this study help you love your neighbor better?
7. What is the most important thing for you to remember from our study? What is one thing you want to apply this week from our study?

MARK THE KING AND THE CROSS

Mark 12:28-34 – What Is The Greatest Commandment?

March 1, 2020

1. What is the background of these verses?

But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. Matthew 22:34-35 (ESV)

2. The Question To Jesus

And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" Mark 12:28 (ESV)

...crying out, "Men of Israel, help! This is the man who is teaching everyone everywhere against the people and the law and this place. Moreover, he even brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place." Acts 21:28 (ESV)

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others." Matthew 23:23 (ESV)

3. The Answer From Jesus

Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Mark 12:29-31 (ESV)

A. We are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

“Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son’s son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.” Deuteronomy 6:1–3 (ESV)

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” Deuteronomy 6:4–5 (ESV)

• **There is only one God. Our love doesn’t need to be divided.**

They sacrificed to demons that were no gods, to gods they had never known, to new gods that had come recently... Deuteronomy 32:17 (ESV)

• **We are to love God with every fiber of our being.**

• **We grow in our love for God by increasing our knowledge of God.**

For the love of Christ controls us,...; 2 Corinthians 5:14 (ESV)

• **Our love for the temporary things of this world can draw us away from loving God the way we should.**

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. 1 John 2:15–17 (ESV)

B. We are to love our neighbor as ourself.

• **The Ten Commandments are about loving God and loving our neighbor.**

• **We can not love God without loving our neighbor.**

If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. 1 John 4:20 (ESV)

• **We love our neighbor by deeply loving our brothers and sisters at church.**

We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. 1 John 3:14 (ESV)

• **We love our neighbor by joyfully sacrificing our time and money to help others at church.**

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. 1 John 3:16–18 (ESV)

• **We love our neighbor by serving our neighborhood.**

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. Galatians 6:10 (ESV)

• **We love our neighbor by refusing to speak evil against our neighbor.**

For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. Galatians 5:14–15 (ESV)

• **We love our neighbor by refusing to show favoritism.**

If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. James 2:8–9 (ESV)

• **We love our neighbor by loving our enemies.**

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what