

The Greatest Commandments

Mark 12:28-34

February 6, 2022

1. The most important commandment – Love the Lord your God with all your being (28-30)

2. The second most important commandment – Love your neighbor as yourself (31)

3. The superiority of these commandments (32-34)

Next week: Mark 12:35-37

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Discussion Questions

The following questions are designed to be used by parents in discussing the sermon with their children, but can be used by anyone in discussing the sermon with others:

1. What stood out to you in this sermon? Why?
2. What does it mean that the Lord is one?
3. What is the most important commandment? What does it mean?
4. What is the second most important commandment? What does it mean?
5. Who is your neighbor? How do you know?
6. Why is an understanding of the heart of God's law necessary for entrance into the kingdom of God?

Going Deeper:

These questions are designed for the believer to use in prayer with his/her Lord, and in discussion with brothers and sisters in the Lord:

1. How did this sermon challenge your thinking, or grow your understanding?
2. Sinclair Ferguson explained the greatest commandment as follows:

God is to be the object of the devotion of my heart. The center of my whole being must be directed towards him and his glory. He must come first in my ambitions and motives. I am to love him too with my soul—so that all my affections and emotions will be in tune with his will and set aflame with a desire to serve him. Then, I must give my thought life to him, seeking to keep my mind pure, and to have all my thinking disciplined and controlled by what he has revealed in Scripture. And all my strength and energy must be his.¹

What stands out to you in this explanation? Why? What do you find the most challenging part of this?

3. In what ways are loving God and loving your neighbor related?
4. How did Jesus fulfill the greatest commandments? Try to be specific.
5. Why is loving God and loving your neighbor “much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices” (33)?
6. Have you been devoting yourself to the heart of what pleases God? Explain. In what ways do you most need to grow in loving God and loving your neighbor?
7. What gospel truths do you most need to keep in mind as you apply to your life Jesus' teaching in this passage?
8. What is the primary way you should be affected by this passage this week?

¹ Sinclair Ferguson, *Let's Study Mark*, 200-201.