

## The Greatest Commands

**"What commandment is the foremost of all?" Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; 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 Great Command Is:

- NOT To "Be Good"
- NOT To Just Believe Jesus' Identity
- NOT Ritual Action
- NOT To Fulfill The Great Commission
- NOT To Obey God
- Love is the Greatest Command Because It Surpasses and Includes Everything Else!

– 1 Cor. 13:1-3

## Outline of the Greatest Commandment

- **Built On The Greatest Relationship**
  - God's Revelation & Our Responsibility
    - "Hear O Israel"
  - God's Nature
    - "The Lord our God is one"
  - Personal Choice
    - "Thou shall"
- **Request The Greatest Action**
  - Love the Lord your God
- **Fulfilled To The Greatest Extent**
  - All Heart, Mind, Soul, & Strength

## All Thy Heart

- **Love of God Dominates The Entire Heart**
  - Col. 3:5-15
- **Every love of the heart is properly related to God and regulated by Him.**
  - 1 John 4:19-21
- **By comparison our love for all else is dwarfed**
  - Luke 14:26-27
- **Heart which is not only ready, but desires, to give up, do, or suffer anything in order to please and glorify God.**
  - 1 John 3:17

## All Thy Soul

- **The Whole of Our Existence**
- **Views each day of being as a blessing from God for God's glory.**
  - Luke 2:42-49
- **Readiness to give up our life, endure torment and discomfort rather than dishonor God.**
  - Acts 21:13
- **One who understands that life comes from God and death only leads to God.**
  - Job 1:21

## All Thy Strength

- **One who exerts all the powers of his or her body and soul in the service of God.**
  - Phil. 1:18-27
- **One who employs all their goods, talents, power, relationships, authority, & influence to honoring God.**
  - Barnabas: Possessions, Efforts, Reputation, Time
- **Every ounce of strength has been dedicated to God, and is used only on those task which glorify God.**
  - Acts 20:35, Eph. 4:28, 1 Tim. 5:8

## All Thy Mind

- **To totally submit your intellect to His will.**
  - To seek only those intellectual attainments which please Him. (Gen. 6:5, Pr. 6:18)
  - To banish every evil and corrupt thought.
- **To love His law and gospel more than our own decisions.**
  - To receive the truth from God with gratitude, submission, and pleasure. (Ps. 119:97)
- **To fully apply your mind to know God.**
  - David's Advice To Solomon (1 Chron. 28:9)

## Love With All Thy Heart, Soul, Strength, Mind

- (Galatians 2:20) "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."
- **Personally: Do you love God?**
- **Collectively: Do we help others love God?**
- (John 14:15) "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."

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