



The Greatest Commandment is Love

Good morning church, I want to welcome you to our service today. If this is your first time joining us here on Sunday Online, we would like to welcome, you to our service today and invite you to join us every Sunday for a weekly message.

Let us pray

Introduction

When Jesus was asked what the GREATEST commandment in **Matthew 22:34-40** is. He replied the following *“³⁴ Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵ One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”*

So, the greatest commandment is LOVE GOD and the n LOVE PEOPLE, and this should be the centre of our whole life, to love God with all our heart, with all your soul and with your mind, so what does that mean?

Loving God with all your Heart, Soul and mind

To understand what Jesus is telling the Pharisees here is that there is a way to love God that is unacceptable and there is a way to love God at a distance but there is also a way to love God as He wants us to love Him, anything short of that is not loving God!

God is all in for you and He wants us to be all in for Him to, specifically in three areas, our heart, soul and mind

The Heart

In **Matthew 6:19-24**, Jesus says that our heart is where our treasure is! *“¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²² “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! ²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”*

This passage has many keys, firstly, we were never created to store up things on earth but rather to store things in heaven, which is an eye-opener to many people, God has no issue with us having on earth like a nice house, car or even money but when those things take your focus off God and most importantly heaven and make you act in a certain way that is not loving others then we have an issue.



Our focus on earth must be on people and not on things because people are more important than things because people are eternal beings and earthly things are perishing and temporal.

And the next verse emphasises this, store up treasures in heaven where nothing can destroy it like on earth, what can we store in heaven

Can we store money in heaven? No, because we will not need money in heaven

Can we store our cars or possessions in heaven? No, because we will not need a car or anything we need here on earth

The ONLY thing we can store or take with us to heaven is people, therefore our focus needs to be people and leading them to the TRUTH which is Jesus Christ.

Now Jesus says a very important concept – where your treasure is there your heart will also be, if your treasure is earthly then you are no heavenly good because it is all about you and your things, whereas God wants us to focus on people!

If you say that your focus is heaven and you do not like or hate people, you do not like or hate any race of people then your treasure can not be heaven because in heaven it will be filled with people! People of every tribe, nation and colour!

So, our heart must be right to love God with our heart! The Bible says the heart in **Proverbs 4:20-24**, King David giving wise instruction to his son, Solomon about life says *“²⁰ My son, pay attention to what I say; turn your ear to my words. ²¹ Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; ²² for they are life to those who find them and health to one’s whole body. ²³ Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. ²⁴ Keep your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips.”*

Above ALL else guard your heart because EVERYTHING flows from it, who you are, how you act and how you love God, it all comes from the heart.

The Soul

Next, Jesus says we must love God with all our soul, the soul consists of your mind, will and emotions, in other words, the way you think and what you are all summed up in the SOUL.

It is your soul that will be saved and go to heaven, your body dies and is buried or cremated but your soul and spirit there real you go to heaven.

Ezekiel 18:19-20 says *“¹⁹ “Yet you say, ‘Why should the son not bear the guilt of the father?’ Because the son has done what is lawful and right, and has kept all My statutes and observed them, he shall surely live. ²⁰ The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.”*



The soul that sins will die, be separated from God, if you sin, your soul that does that sin will die unless you accept the free gift of God which is Jesus Christ as your payment for sin.

What Jesus is saying in the passage is that we must love God with our mind, our will and our emotions in other words we must love God with our whole being, the essence of us, that makes us, us!

The Mind

The mind here refers to the way we think, **Romans 12:1-2** says *“¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”*

Firstly, Paul says we must be a living sacrifice, why living sacrifice because a living sacrifice has the choice to climb off or stay on the alter, it is your choice to be a living sacrifice.

Secondly, that we must be Holy and acceptable to God, the only way to be Holy and Acceptable to God is ONLY (**John 14:6**), through accepting Jesus Christ who makes us Holy (He sanctified us) and Acceptable (He makes us righteous in right standing, Acceptable with God) with God, there is no other way.

When we come in this way, when we come to God we must not come in the form of the world, speak like the world, be like the world, think like the world, but be TRANSFORMED by the renewing or washing of our mind, in other words, our way of thinking.

We give up the way the world thinks and change the way we think into a Godly way of thinking but washing, changing, renewing our minds with God’s WORD!!!! Only the WORD OF GOD can change any person thinking!

When we do this, we change the way we think into the way God thinks by allowing the Word of God to cleanse our thoughts into His way of thinking and thoughts according to His word!

We get to think and act like God wants us to act and think by using the Word of God as our lens, when we do this we get to understand what God’s perfect and acceptable word is for our lives.

And when we allow the Word of God to change us, to change our way of thinking into His way of thinking and according to His Word we WILL LOVE PEOPLE, because God loves people.

John 3:16-17 *“¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”*



So, if God loves people, all people, not just the nice ones but the ugly ones too, if God can love them and He does love them, so much so that He sent His Only Son Jesus Christ to pay the price for all of mankind's sin including theirs, we MUST love everyone!

Inclosing

As I close this message about love, when the Pharisees asked Jesus what the greatest commandment was, He said, to Love God with our **heart**, He was saying we should take our focus our treasure on Him and people, with all our **soul**, He was saying with all of your being, your mind, will and emotions and our **mind**, He was saying our understanding of the Word of God, having our heart, mind and thought washed clean with the washing of His Word, that is how God wants you to love Him and then when you loved Him as He should be love you will love all people no matter their race, financial status, the colour of their skin, race, gender or religion.

Why do you think God wants this, why must we love and serve Him in this way? So, that you can RECONCILE people to God through Jesus Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:15-21**) and the Love of God and His people.

Jesus said in **John 15:13** *"¹³ Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. "*

Are you prepared to Love God with everything and to Love people as he loves them, then become that living sacrifice, wash your soul and mind with the Word of God and love people and love them so much that you will tell them the Good News that Jesus Christ died for their sin and that He wants to save them from their sin and have them live with Him in heaven?

Let's pray