

The Message Notes

Message: *The Greatest Commandment*

Teacher: Sis. T.K. Floyd Foutz

Date: July 14, 2024

Text: Mark 12:28-34



Mark 12:28-31 (NLT): One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” Jesus replied, “*The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’* The second is equally important: ‘*Love your neighbor as yourself.*’ No other commandment is greater than these.”

Part I: L.O.V.E. God

Scripture References: Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 3:18; Psalms 36:5-6; 1 John 4:9; Matthew 26:36-43

L: _____ — we make God our top priority
(Exodus 20:3)

O: _____ — we comply with God’s commands,
as outlined in His Word (1 John 5:3; John 14:15)

V: _____ — we willingly choose to love God
with our entire being (Joshua 24:15)

E: _____ — we adore and glorify God; we
worship Him, and we thank Him (Psalms 100:4)

Reflection Questions:

- What/who in your life may be distracting you from loving God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength?
- Do you see your love for God reflected in your thoughts, words, and actions? If not, have you asked the Holy Spirit to help you love God?

Part II: L.O.V.E. Others

Scripture References: Leviticus 19; 1 John 4:7-8, 11-12, 20-21; Luke 10:30-37; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:12-13; Luke 9:10-17; Mark 5:25-34; Matthew 5:43-44; Matthew 7:12; Matthew 25:35-40; Micah 6:8; Proverbs 31:8-9; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Romans 12:9-10

L:

- Your love should be _____ — radiant and attractive, drawing your neighbor to God
- Your love should be _____ — caring and thoughtful, inspiring your neighbor to seek God
- Your love should be _____ — generous and extravagant, showing your neighbor the love of God

O:

- Your love should be _____ — outward and open, so your neighbor can see God
- Your love should be _____ — accessible and noticeable, so your neighbor can know God
- Your love should be _____ — influential and practical, so your neighbor can experience God

V:

- Your love should be _____ — observant and seeking the best for your neighbor
- Your love should be _____ — expressing your neighbor's worth as a bearer of the *Imago Dei*, the image of God
- Your love should be _____ — essential and significant, making you an indispensable person to your neighbor

E:

- Your love should be _____ — compassionate and understanding, meeting your neighbor where they are
- Your love should be _____ — appealing and pleasant to your neighbor
- Your love should be _____ — meeting the needs of your neighbor

Reflection Questions:

- Who do you struggle to love? Have you asked the Holy Spirit for help?
- In what tangible ways might you show love to your neighbor?

Part III: Convinced or Converted?

Scripture References: 1 Samuel 15:22; Hosea 6:6; John 3:16; John 17:3; John 11:23-26; Romans 10:13-15

Reflection Questions:

- Have you accepted the free gift of salvation offered by Jesus?
- With whom can you share the Gospel—the Good News about Jesus?