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## Who Is My Neighbor?

The Command to Love Your Neighbor

Mark 12:28–34 (HCSB)

*One of the scribes approached. When he heard them debating and saw that Jesus answered them well, he asked Him, “Which command is the most important of all?”<sup>29</sup> “This is the most important,” Jesus answered: **Listen, Israel! The Lord our God, the Lord is One.**<sup>30</sup> **Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.**<sup>31</sup> “The second is: **Love your neighbor as yourself.** There is no other command greater than these.”<sup>32</sup> Then the scribe said to Him, “You are right, Teacher! You have correctly said that He is One, and there is no one else except Him.”<sup>33</sup> And to love Him with all your heart, with all your understanding, and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself, is far more important than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices.”<sup>34</sup> When Jesus saw that he answered intelligently, He said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And no one dared to question Him any longer.*

### 1. YOU MUST LOVE GOD \_\_\_\_\_ YOU CAN GENUINELY LOVE OTHERS vv 28-30

Deuteronomy 10:12 (HCSB)

“And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you except to fear the LORD your God by walking in all His ways, to love Him, and to worship the LORD your God with all your heart and all your soul?”

- There is one God and He is the \_\_\_\_\_ of all love.

Deuteronomy 6:4 (HCSB)

“Listen, Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is One.”

1 John 4:7–12 (HCSB)

*Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.<sup>8</sup> The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love.<sup>9</sup> God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent His One and Only Son into the world so that we might live through Him.<sup>10</sup> Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that He*

*loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.<sup>11</sup> Dear friends, if God loved us in this way, we also must love one another.<sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God. If we love one another, God remains in us and His love is perfected in us.*

- Loving God with everything you have is the essence of worship.
- When we give all our love to God, He \_\_\_\_\_ it for us to give to others.

### 2. YOU MUST LOVE \_\_\_\_\_ THE WAY YOU WOULD PREFER TO BE LOVED v 31

- My neighbor is the person God puts in my \_\_\_\_\_.
- I must learn how to love others the way I love myself.
- Loving others becomes the \_\_\_\_\_ characteristic of believers.

### 3. THE WAY YOU LOVE OTHERS IS MORE IMPORTANT TO GOD THAN OUR \_\_\_\_\_ vv 32-34

- Showing \_\_\_\_\_ to my neighbor is more important than sacrifices.

Matthew 9:10–13 (HCSB)

*While He was reclining at the table in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came as guests to eat with Jesus and His disciples.<sup>11</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they asked His disciples, “Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”<sup>12</sup> But when He heard this, He said, “Those who are well don’t need a doctor, but the sick do.<sup>13</sup> Go and learn what this means: **I desire mercy and not sacrifice.** For I didn’t come to call the righteous, but sinners.”*

- Being obedient by loving my neighbor is more important than sacrifices.

1 Samuel 15:22 (HCSB)

*Then Samuel said: Does the LORD take pleasure in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? Look: to obey is better than sacrifice, to pay attention is better than the fat of rams.*

- You are \_\_\_\_\_ to love your neighbor.

**The Next Step:** Demonstrate your love for God by loving your neighbor.