

“Christian Living: The Great Commandment”
“Implications of the Gospel” — Part 2
Mark 12:28-31

...“Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. 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 second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”
Mark 12:28-31

**“God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially,
and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion
toward the poor and justice for the oppressed.”**

1. Loving God is our highest priority!

- Worship is a way of loving God.

...ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name. Bring an offering and come before him; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.
1 Chronicles 16:29

- Thanksgiving is a way of loving God.

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
1 Chronicles 16:8-10

- Guarding our affections is a way of loving God.

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.
Proverbs 4:23

- Obedience is a way of loving God.

If you love me, you will obey what I command.
John 14:15

“...Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”
Matthew 22:37

- Work is a way of loving God.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord... It is the Lord Christ you are serving.
Colossians 3:23-24

***God’s sanctifying purpose is that
His image be restored in us!***

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.
1 John 4:8

...God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.
1 John 4:16

2. We love God when we love others sacrificially.

...“I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”
Matthew 25:40

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
1 John 4:10-11

If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.
1 John 4:20

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.
1 John 3:16

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
John 13:34-35

3 Ways to Love Your Brother and Your Neighbor:

1. Care for one another.

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. There were no needy persons among them....
Acts 4:32-34

2. Show compassion to the poor.

He who despises his neighbor sins, but blessed is he who is kind to the needy.
Proverbs 14:21

A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.
Proverbs 22:9

He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses.
Proverbs 28:27

He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward him for what he has done.
Proverbs 19:17

***A life of generosity to the poor
flows out of your experience with the Gospel!***

***Hearts touched by the gospel,
those who have experienced God's compassion,
cannot help but extend compassion
toward others.***

3. Seek justice for the oppressed.

Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.
Psalm 82:3-4

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.
Proverbs 31:8-9

Application: Jesus said that loving God and loving your neighbor is the fulfillment of the law of God, for it is the perfect expression of the character of God. While loving our neighbor, our highest priority must be the proclamation of the gospel. Only the gospel can address mankind's deepest needs. Yet, while proclaiming the gospel we cannot neglect the material needs of those around us. Love requires both!

We love because he first loved us.
1 John 4:19