



Date: September 24, 2017

Scripture: **Mark 12:28-36** "Second Great Commandment"

Last week we were told to "Hear that God is one!" and that as a result He is to be pursued with singular devotion (affection, love, worship) [Isa 42:8]. Singular Devotion is the overarching grid through which all of the commands in the Bible flow (including the NT!). It shapes how we relate to God, AND it also shapes how we relate to others. For example in the "10 Commandments" the first four deal with how we relate to God and the other six deal with how we relate to others.

This week we will look to Jesus' summary of God's commands, particularly the 2nd great commandment to see how it shapes our hearts, minds, attitudes, and actions.

Deeper Dive.

- How does the unity of God help us understand the continuity between the Old Testament (OT) and New Testament (NT)?
 - For example:
 - Is God's plan of salvation different or similar between the testaments?
 - How does God show his Justice in the OT?
 - How does God show his justice in the NT?
 - How does God show his mercy in the OT? – can you list some specific examples?
 - (e.g. Leviticus 16:6-10 = the original "scapegoat" or Azazel).
 - How does God show his mercy in the NT?
 - How is one saved in the Old Testament?
How is one saved in the New Testament?
 - What's the different between the spirit and the letter of the law?
 - How does this show up in the Old Testament (see Hosea 6:6 and 1 Samuel 15)
 - How does this show up in the NT (see Luke 14).
- Old Testament - How does the unity of God shape our understanding of the Ten Commandments?
- New Testament - How does the 1st and 2nd greatest commandments relate to each other? (How does the 1st inform the 2nd?)
- Mark 12:31 says that you are to "love our neighbor as *yourself*." How does my love of self provide the foundation for my loving others in fulfilling this commandment?
- Since everyone shares in bearing God's image (Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 8), how does this help us understand how to love others?
- Extra Deep: (optional – see endnote for answers): Does Jesus' fulfillment of the OT law mean that Christians are now under *no* laws?



Practical Application:

- Why is it hard to love others as ourselves? What keeps us from loving others?
- How does Jesus show us the way to loving others as ourselves?
- How does the gospel shape our love for others?
- In our church's Mission to "Make, Mature, and Multiply Disciple-Makers of Jesus Christ" – how does loving our neighbor play into each piece?
 - Make_____
 - Mature_____
 - Multiply Disciple-Makers_____
- Discuss how we are to love others as ourselves in the following areas:
 - Family
 - How can a husband lead his wife to God?
 - Even if only a little...
 - How could a wife show love through respecting her husband?
 - Where should she begin?
 - What are the baby steps?
 - Church Body:
 - What are some practical ways you can love people within your local church?
 - Please share with your group some effective ways you've been able to connect with others at church.
 - How many areas of service can your group list as potential opportunities to connect through serving your local body?
 - How can you love international members of God's universal church?
 - How can you be intentional about loving your neighbors into a place for evangelism?
 - How can you love those who cannot speak for themselves (orphans, poor, social outcasts, etc.)¹
 - What is another area you can think of_____?

Think about this week: What is one thing you can intentionally do this week to love someone else through the love of the Father, the provision His Son, and the power of the Holy Spirit?

¹ See Prov. 31:8-9



ⁱ See Jn. 15:10 & 1 Jn. 2:3-8; 3:22-24; Gal 5:4 for example.

Romans 13:8–10 (ESV)

Fulfilling the Law Through Love

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Matthew 5:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”

Romans 10:4 (ESV)

⁴ For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Revelatory vs Regulatory

For the Christian the Mosaic Law has revelatory value (2 Tim. 3:16–17) even though it does not have regulatory value, controlling our behavior.

Tom Constable. (2003; 2003). Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible (Ga 5:13). Galaxie Software.

Thus the commandment “Love your neighbor as yourself” sums up all the other commandments, including, as its basic presupposition, the first table of the Decalogue. The ceremonial and civil aspects of the Mosaic legislation are no longer binding on Christians today, but the moral law, expressed in the Ten Commandments, is indeed relevant for the New Testament believer who by divine grace has been incorporated into the people of God. This believer delights in the law of God in accordance with the new nature he has received and thus joins fervently in the exclamation of the Old Testament saint, “O how I love thy law! It is my meditation all the day” (Ps 119:97, KJV). George, T. (2001, c1994). Vol. 30: Galatians (electronic ed.). Logos Library System; The New American Commentary (381). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

Moral Law =

The moral law of God is nothing less than the outward expression of **God’s holy character and will**. The moral law of God thus antedates the Mosaic covenant.

George, T. (2001, c1994). Vol. 30: Galatians (electronic ed.). Logos Library System; The New American Commentary (380). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.



Relationship to the 10 Commandments

The moral law of God thus antedates the Mosaic covenant. When in Rom 2:15 Paul said of the pagan Gentiles who had never heard of the law of Moses that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts and consciences, he was referring to that manifestation of the moral law that is present in the structure of creation itself, especially in the consciousness of God all humans have from being made in the divine image. Thus Cain committed murder and was held responsible for his sinful act, long before God had said in the Ten Commandments, “Thou shalt not kill.” The Ten Commandments concretized the moral law of God, placing it center stage, so to say, in God’s covenantal dealings with the people of Israel.

Still, Paul did not say that the entire law is summed up in the Ten Commandments but rather in a single commandment (lit., “word,” logos): “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

George, T. (2001, c1994). Vol. 30: Galatians (electronic ed.). Logos Library System; The New American Commentary (380). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

Moral Law remains in effect...

Paul’s ethical argument throughout this entire passage is based on the premise that the moral law of God, far from being abrogated by the coming of Christ, remains the divinely sanctioned standard for Christian conduct and growth in grace.

George, T. (2001, c1994). Vol. 30: Galatians (electronic ed.). Logos Library System; The New American Commentary (380). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

Moral Law

The ethics of the former OT law are the same as those of the NT gospel as indicated in the quote from Lev. 19:18 (see notes on Rom. 7:12; 8:4; cf. James 2:8–10). When a Christian genuinely loves others, he fulfills all the moral requirements of the former Mosaic law concerning them (Matt. 22:36–40; cf. Deut. 6:5; Rom. 13:8–10). This is the ruling principle of Christian freedom (vv. 6, 13)

MacArthur, J. J. (1997, c1997). The MacArthur Study Bible (electronic ed.) (Ga 5:14). Nashville: Word Pub.

No Externality Can - ONLY By the Spirit

If they wanted to live under law, let it be the law of Christ (6:2) impelled by the indwelling Spirit rather than by an external code.

There is no external entity that can enable us to love our neighbors as ourselves, but the Holy Spirit can produce that love within us.

Tom Constable. (2003; 2003). Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible (Ga 5:13). Galaxie Software.

Free and Joyful

“*Keeping the commandments*” of the Lord is a typically Johannine way of speaking (cf. John 14:21; 1 John 3:21–24; 5:3). It does not connote the servile obedience of one who seeks to gain acceptance with God by observing the works of the law.

It is rather the free and joyful obedience of one who has been liberated from the curse of the law and empowered by the Holy Spirit to fulfill that which formerly convicted and condemned him

George, T. (2001, c1994). Vol. 30: Galatians (electronic ed.). Logos Library System; The New American Commentary (383). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.