

Matthew 22:34-30

The Greatest

April 19, 2020 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Intro

Matthew 22:34-40 - When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. Then one of them, a lawyer, asked *Him a question*, testing Him, saying, “Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?”

In the OT law, there were 613 separate commands.

- **365 Negative... 248 Positive**

v. 35 - “Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?” Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is *the* first and great commandment.

1. It's a Personal Command

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and all your strength."

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2. It's a Pervasive Command

John 14:15 - "If you love Me, you'll keep My commandments."

John 14:21 - "Whoever has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me."

John 14:23 - "If anyone loves Me, he'll keep My word."

Daniel 1:8 - Daniel *purposed* in his heart that he wouldn't defile himself.

Joshua 24:15 - "*Choose* today whom you'll serve... But as for me and my family, we'll serve the LORD."

3. It's a Partnered Command

Jesus partnered this command with another one.

- **The first command... is found in Deuteronomy 6**
- **The second command is found in Leviticus 19**
- **Until Jesus, no one had put these two commands together**

Ephesians 5:29 - No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church.

1 John 4:20-21 - If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he's a liar... Whoever loves God *must* love his brother also.

John 15:12 - "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I've loved you."

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John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His own begotten Son.

Matthew 25 - Jesus: "Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for Me."

4. It's the Pivotal Command

v. 40 - Jesus: "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Romans 13:8-10 - Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for *he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law*. The commandments, "Don't commit adultery," "Don't murder," "Don't steal," "Don't covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are all summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore *love is the fulfillment of the law*.

Mark 12:32-34 - "Well said, Teacher," the man replied... "To love God with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he'd answered wisely, He said to him, "You're not far from the kingdom of God."

1 John 5:11-12 - This is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who doesn't have the Son of God doesn't have life.

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