

The Greatest Commandment

Pastor Jeremy Peters

Mark 12:28-34 NIV

²⁸ One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

²⁹ "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

³² "Well said, teacher," the man replied. "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. ³³ To love him 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."

³⁴ When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

1. The Purpose of the _____ is to become a _____ person.

2. Love _____ God releases the Love _____ God.

The Kingdom in Action

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3. _____ narratives need to be replaced by _____ narratives.

Small Group Questions

1. As Pastor Jeremy unpacked the relationship between the Law and love - how did this challenge some of your preconceived ideas about what the Law is and how it should relate to our lives? Read Matthew 5:17-20 out loud. How does this relate to this matter?
2. Read through the 10 commandments (Exodus 20) and reflect on how these foundational aspects of God's law, if followed, will point us towards loving well. For example, how does 'not stealing' form us into someone who loves well?
3. Share a time when you expressed love and didn't receive any in return. How did this make you feel / how did you respond?
4. How do you interact with the idea that we can only love others better if we grow in loving God? What practical next steps does this compel you to explore?
5. Consider the idea of false narratives that Pastor Jeremy unpacked in his message. Read these passages and discuss how Jesus addresses three common false narratives:
 - God as the angry judge (John 9:1-3)
 - God isn't trustworthy (Matthew 6:9-13)
 - God's love is to be earned (Matthew 20:1-15)
6. Take some time, as a group, to ask Jesus what false narratives might be presiding in your own lives. After listening for a few moments in silence, share what you think Jesus might be saying.
7. Take time to listen to Jesus one more time - asking him to speak his truth into the false narratives that have been identified. Take time to pray for and encourage one another accordingly.