

Theme: All the law is summarized in these two commandments: You shall love the Lord your God with all of your heart, and with all of your soul, and with all of your mind; and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

## I. Intro – The Difficulty of Summarizing

- A. I love good books and series
- B. It is always tough to turn them into movies
- C. A lot of detail gets lost; what really captures ideas?
- D. Inevitably people will say something important is lost
- E. How would we summarize God's Law?
- F. BRCC Catechism Question
- G. Rabbi's said 613 commands; what is most important?

## II. The Pharisees Want To Test Jesus

- A. The background - trying to trap Jesus
  - 1. A series of tests in Matthew 22
  - 2. v34 - a conspiracy is afoot!
    - a. The Sadducees silenced - Pharisees will try
    - b. Gathered in the same place - always against God
    - c. Psalm 2:1-2 [Judg 6:33; 2 Sam 10:15; Neh 6:2]
  - 3. v35 - expert in Law tests Jesus
- B. The test - greatest commandment in the Law
  - 1. Many different answers given to this before
    - a. Psalm 15; Micah 6:6-8; passages in Isaiah

- b. Most did not even pick a command from Torah!
- 2. Can Jesus get at whole Law with one command?

## III. Jesus Gives the Heart of God's Law

- A. Jesus gives the heart of the Law in two commands
  - 1. v37-38 - Love God fully is greatest command
  - 2. v39 - Love neighbor as self is second and like first
  - 3. v40 - all of Law and Prophets hang on these two
  - 4. Mark 12:32-33 - the Law expert agreed!
- B. Why these are the heart of God's Law (summary of all)
  - 1. They actually come from Law (Deut 6:5; Lev 19:18)
  - 2. The Greatest is from Shema (Mark 12:29-30)
    - a. Pious Jews said this every day!
  - 3. These two summarize the Ten Commandments
    - a. Love God - commands 1-4
    - b. Love neighbor - commands 5-10
  - 4. If you keep these, you keep all others!
  - 5. If obedience not from love it is in vain (1 Co 13:1-3)

## IV. A Look At the Heart of God's Law

- A. The foundation of all is love for God (vv 37-38)
  - 1. Many today want to remove this command
  - 2. The second depends on the first; can't separate

- B. Love for God is false if no love for neighbor (vv39-40)
  - 1. 1 John is really clear on this [1 John 4:7-8, 16]
  - 2. Some Christians forget this; we must be known by love
- C. The love commanded requires our whole being (vv37,39)
  - 1. This is not a breakdown of our being into 3 parts
  - 2. Mark has 4 parts - point is love God with all we have
  - 3. Love for neighbor as for self - wholehearted love
- D. Love fulfills the Law of God (v40)
  - 1. True love will usher in obedience to God's Law
  - 2. If it does not, it is not love - just ephemeral emotion
  - 3. Any obedience not flowing from love is external ritualism

## V. Applying the Word

- A. Do we see that we have not fulfilled these commands?
  - 1. Do I know I have not loved God with all I am?
  - 2. Do I know I have not loved my neighbor as much as I love myself?
  - 3. Do I see that only Christ has done this?
  - 4. Or do I try to reduce these commands so I can say I kept them?
    - a. Luke 10:29 - desiring to justify himself
    - b. To do this he reduced scope of command
    - c. Jesus then told parable of Good Samaritan

- d. But Lawyer in Mark did not do this!
- 5. Look to Christ - He has done it for you!
- B. Do we see how God calls us to walk in love?
  - 1. Law convicts us of sin - but also our guide!
  - 2. Both will be part of our Catechism
  - 3. Am I more concerned about love - or less weighty parts of the law?
    - a. This is a REAL temptation for religious people
  - 4. Am I walking in love with others in BRCC?
  - 5. Am I walking in love with believers outside of BRCC?
  - 6. Am I walking in love with unbelievers?
- C. Prayer - look to Christ - and walk in love!

**The Heart of God's Law**  
 Matthew 22:34-40/Mark 12:28-34  
 July 31, 2011  
 Prayer  
 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

Question 19: Can you summarize what God's law commands you to do?

All the law is summarized in these two commandments: You shall love the Lord your God with all of your heart, and with all of your soul, and with all of your mind; and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? 2 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers **gather together** against the LORD and against his Anointed One.

Psalms 2:1–2

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

Mark 12:32–33

Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Deuteronomy 6:5

“Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19:18

“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’

Mark 12:29–30

#### Love God

No other gods

No idols/images

Do not use the LORD's Name in vain

Keep Sabbath holy to the LORD

#### Love Neighbor

Honor parents

No murder

No adultery

No stealing

No lying

No coveting

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:1–3

12 May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. 13 May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. 1 Thessalonians 3:12–13