

Theme: God calls us to live a life of love and service toward Him and others.

## I. Intro – Difficulty of “Greatest Of”

- A. Lots of “greatest” lists
- B. Guitar solo’s; ball players, etc.
- C. What if we could ask God?
- D. This teacher of the law did!

## II. Loving God

- A. Great Command – Love God (vv36-37)
  - 1. This is the most important command of all
  - 2. Every aspect of our being (v37; Mk 12:30)
- B. We love God emotionally
  - 1. What God wants is love – not sacrifice (Hos 6:6)
  - 2. Lost our first love? (Rev 2:1-4)
- C. We love God by obeying and serving
  - 1. Love = obeying (1 Jo 5:3; Jo 14:15)
  - 2. Love produces covenant loyalty
  - 3. Example of husband and wife

## III. Loving Others

- A. Second command – love others (v39)
  - 1. Asked for one – Jesus gives two!
  - 2. 2nd command – love others (v39)
  - 3. Love as much as self; same way!
  - 4. God links these two! (Deut 10:12-13; 18-19)
  - 5. Two commands, two tables of law (Decalogue)
- B. We love others emotionally – friendship, compassion
  - 1. Emotional aspect - 1 Cor 13:3; 1 Jo 3:17
  - 2. We are called to friendship, compassion
- C. We love others by serving them
  - 1. Love produces action - 1 Jo 3:18
  - 2. Love = emotion + action

## IV. A Life That Fulfills God’s Purpose

- A. Seek God
- B. Sanctification
- C. Submission to authorities
- D. Service to others – relationship, love, service
- E. Stewardship – to enable love/service

F. Self-denial – to enable love/service

G. Suffering for God and others

## **V. Conclusion & Summary**

A. Am I loving God?

1. Do I have a relationship with Jesus Christ?
2. Do I love God emotionally?
3. Do I obey and serve God?

B. Am I loving others?

1. Do I have compassion on others?
2. Do I treat others as the image of God (Lewis)

C. Is my life driven by God's eternal purpose?

1. Do I live in light of CFRC?
2. How am I on the seven S's listed above?
3. Come join God in His mission!

### **A Life That Fulfills God's Purpose**

Mathew 22:34-40

October 14, 2007

?????

Psalm 67

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. Mark 12:30

I don't want your sacrifices – I want your love. I don't want your offerings – I want you to know me. Hosea 6:6 (LB)

2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. 3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. 4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Revelation 2:2-4

3 This is love for God: to obey his commands. 1 John 5:3

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

12 And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to observe the LORD's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good? Deuteronomy 10:12-13

18 He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing. 19 And you are to love those who are aliens, for you yourselves were aliens in Egypt. Deuteronomy 10:18-19

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 13:3

17 If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? 1 John 3:17

18 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:18

- Seek God – draw close to God
- Sanctification – grow in character
- Submission – properly relate to authority
- Service – relationship, love, service
- Stewardship – to enable love and service
- Self-denial – to enable love/service
- Suffering – to fulfill love and service

Read quote from CS Lewis, *Weight of Glory*, pages 45-46