

Theme: God calls to us through the law and the Gospel to love Him with our entire being, and to raise future generations to turn to Christ so they can do the same thing.

I. Intro – the Shema – Great Command

- A. Pious Jews say it every day – recite it
- B. Masoretic text – enlarged last letter 1st/last word
- C. Jesus said vv4-5 was greatest command
- D. What is this great text? What does it mean?

II. God’s Call - Shema and Great Command

- A. The Shema – v4
 - 1. Memorable – but not easy to translate! (NIVmg)
 - 2. Key ideas – YHWH Covenant God; monotheism
 - 3. No capricious multitude of god – YHWH alone
- B. Great command – love God with all (v5)
 - 1. Basic command – love God Himself
 - 2. Extent – with everything in me (v5; Mk 12:30)
 - 3. Implication – not external legalism but full love

III. Our Personal Response

- A. Commands on the heart (v6)
 - 1. God’s Word must be on our heart (v6)
 - a. Not just external – take into heart

- b. Meditate, memorize, internalize
- c. Can’t love God apart from His Word

B. The law and the Gospel – God’s call to us

- 1. Meditate on Word – we can’t obey its laws
- 2. Great command – love God with everything always
- 3. Problem – we don’t and can’t!
- 4. Legalism – reduce call to manageable level
- 5. Gospel – forgiveness, changed heart
- 6. John Newton – Lot Us Love & Sing & Wonder

IV. Our Responsibility – Reach Next Generation

- A. Impress the commands on children (v7)
 - 1. Literally ‘recite again and again’
 - 2. Many times, places, ways (v7b-8)
 - 3. Both family and community (v9)
- B. Multi-Generational Perspective of Scripture
 - 1. Psalm 78:5-6 – 4 generations!
 - 2. Psalm 78:6-7 – shepherd heart, not actions

V. Applying the Word

- A. Do I see the need for Christ?
 - 1. I can not keep Great command – need grace!

2. Christ kept it for me – look to Him
 3. Remember Newton's hymn!
- B. Do we see the great command?
1. The great command is to love God with all
 2. Do I love God – or just keep rituals?
 3. Do I love God with every part – emotions, mind, body?
 4. Does this love lead me into Word? It must!
- C. Am I reaching future generations?
1. Parents – training children?
 2. Grandparents – training 3rd generation?
 3. All – helping them see Christ everywhere?

Reaching Future Generations

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

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Water Baptism

Numbers 6

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.'

Mark 12:28-30

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

⁵ He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, ⁶ so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children.

Psalm 78:5-6

⁷ Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands. ⁸ They would not be like their forefathers-- a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to him.

Psalm 78:7-8