

The Great Commandment

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 22:34-40.

B. Divine love is the greatest experience.

C. The religious leaders were attempting to discredit Jesus publicly.

D. Jesus spoke of the religious leader's exclusion from the kingdom of God angering them deeply.

II. The leaders questioned Jesus whether it was right to pay taxes in order to trap Him, but Jesus silenced them by telling them to pay Caesar what was due him and God what was due Him. (Psalm 2:2, Acts 4:26)

III. The scribe is less intent to cause Jesus to stumble as demonstrated by Jesus' response.

IV. The plan of the religious leaders.

A. Moses was the number one hero of Judaism. (Matthew 23:2)

B. The religious leaders wanted to get Jesus to admit that He superseded Moses so that the people would turn against Him, but Jesus presented Himself as in line with Moses.

C. Jesus quoted Moses for the Greatest Commandment much to the religious leaders' consternation. He affirmed solidarity to Moses. (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)

D. The man is to love God with his soul, emotions, and might. We ought to love God in a comprehensive way as He has loved us in a comprehensive way. (Proverbs 4:23, Matthew 26:30, Deuteronomy 6)

E. God wants more than our believing. A person demonstrates he is a Christian with a consuming love for God, not belief alone. (Romans 7, Matthew 23, Exodus 20, Deuteronomy 7, Ephesians 6:24, I Corinthians 16:22, Exodus 20:5, Psalm 18, 39:23, 63:1-8, 119:165, 61:9, 119:72, 119:79, I John 5:1, Psalm 97:10, Matthew 26:75, II Timothy 4:8, I Corinthians 1:9)

F. Christ comes to save us for our lack of love but also infuses us with the divine love. (Romans 5)

G. Love fulfills the law. (Romans 15)

H. The religious leaders were silenced by Jesus.

Application questions:

1. How does Jesus surprise His opponents on multiple occasions?

2. How did Jesus turn the tables in maintaining solidarity with Moses?

3. How would you assess your own love for God? How can a person increase or grow his passion for the Almighty? Explain.
