



April 28, 2024
Dr. Rick Mandl
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²⁸One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, 'Of all the commandments, which is the most important?' ²⁹Jesus replied, 'The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. ³⁰And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' ³¹The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these.' ³²The teacher of religious law replied, 'Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth by saying that there is only one God and no other. ³³And I know it is important to love him with all my heart and all my understanding and all my strength, and to love my neighbor as myself. This is more important than to offer all of the burnt offerings and sacrifices required in the law.' ³⁴Realizing how much the man understood, Jesus said to him, 'You are not far from the Kingdom of God.' And after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Mark 12:28-34

1. The _____ And His _____ vs.28

2. His _____ Of Jesus' _____ vs.32-33

The Greatest Commandment - Mark 12:28-34

3. His _____ As _____ By Jesus vs.34

Memory Verse
"Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister."
1 John 4:20-21

MY NEXT STEP IS TO . . .

- Today for the first time trust in Jesus as my Lord and Savior and begin to follow Him
- Memorize 1 John 4:20-21
- Ask God to show me who I can be a neighbor to this week
- Get the most out of this today's teaching by attending my Life group this week



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The Greatest Commandment - Mark 12:28-34

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Mark 12:28-34

1. The Questioner And His Question vs.28

2. His Affirmation Of Jesus' Answer vs.32-33

3. His Condition As Described By Jesus vs.34

Memory Verse

"Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister."

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Discussion Questions - Week #2

LIFEGROUPS

QUICK REVIEW

Thinking back to the weekend sermon, "The Greatest Commandment," summarize the main point in a sentence or two.

Was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Do you plan on taking any practical steps this week in response to the message?

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

This weekend's passage began with a question from a teacher of the law. If you had the chance to ask Jesus anything today, what would you ask him?

How would your neighbors grade you on following the second half of the Great Commandment?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. While we've all probably heard 1 Corinthians 13 read at a wedding, romantic love is not necessarily what Paul had in mind. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. What would you say if you were to summarize this passage in one sentence?

How does the Biblical definition of love compare to how we generally see love portrayed in the media?

Which of the descriptions of love do you appreciate the most?

Which of these descriptions of love do you find most effortless to carry out?

In which of the characteristics of love described in this passage do you think you might want to grow?

2. Read 1 John 4:7-21. What stands out to you in this passage?

What connection do you see between this passage and the Great Commandment?

In verse 8, John makes the striking comment that God is love. Love is not something God possesses, rather love is God's nature. Paul says in Colossians 3:10 that we "have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator." If God is love, what does that mean for us to be remade in God's image?

How might that shape how we view our spiritual formation?

How does John further define love in this passage?

The kind of selfless and sacrificial love we're called to isn't easy. How does John suggest that we're able to do so?

How might the love we show one another within the church serve as a witness if not an apologetic to those outside the church?

FOR PRACTICE

Earlier in the book of James, in chapter one he states, "My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." Picking up on this theme, in Life Together, Dietrich Bonhoeffer stated, "Just as loving God begins with listening to his Word, so the beginning of love for the brethren is learning to listen to them." What better way of reducing conflict in our relationships than through the practice of attentive listening? Look for opportunities this week to give generous space to others by listening.

SHARE IT

Is there anything you heard or learned in the weekend message or Life Group this week that you want to share with someone you know?

PRAYER REQUESTS

☞ According to the Joshua Project, it is estimated that of the 7.83 billion people alive today, 3.37 billion live in unreached groups with little or no access to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In other words, they are spiritually blind. Pray for Christian missionaries to enter these regions and for the Good News of Jesus to spread, leading to Spirit-led indigenous Christ-followers, leaders, and church plants.