

The Book of Mark:

What is Love, Part 2

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.' ³¹ The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

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

³⁴ When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

Mark 12:28-34 (NIV)

*My God will reject them
because they have not obeyed him;
they will be wanderers among the nations.*

*Israel was a spreading vine;
he brought forth fruit for himself.*

*As his fruit increased,
he built more altars;
as his land prospered,
he adorned his sacred stones.*

*² Their heart is deceitful,
and now they must bear their guilt.
The LORD will demolish their altars
and destroy their sacred stones.*

Hosea 9:17-10:2 (NIV)

Ahab went to meet Elijah. ¹⁷ When he saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is that you, you troubler of Israel?"

¹⁸ "I have not made trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "But you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the Lord's commands and have followed the Baals... Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him."

1 Kings 18:16-18,21 (NIV)

Then all the people of Israel turned back to the Lord. ³ So Samuel said to all the Israelites, "If you are returning to the Lord with all your hearts, then rid yourselves of the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths and commit yourselves to the Lord and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines." ⁴ So the Israelites put away their Baals and Ashtoreths, and served the Lord only.

1 Samuel 17:2-4 (NIV)

*Teach me your way, LORD,
that I may rely on your faithfulness;
give me an undivided heart,
that I may fear your name.
Psalm 86:11 (NIV)*

*Teach me Your way, Lord;
I will walk in Your truth;
Unite my heart to fear Your name.
Psalm 86:11 (NASB)*

The Lord says:

*“These people come near to me with their mouth
and honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.
Their worship of me
is based on merely human rules they have been taught.
Isaiah 29:13 (NIV)*

! Love for God is whole _____.

*I seek you with all my heart;
do not let me stray from your commands.
Psalm 119:10 (NIV)*

*“If you love me, keep my commands.”
John 14:15 (NIV)*

*This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. ³In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, ⁴for everyone born of God overcomes the world.
1 John 5:2-4 (NIV)*

*How can a young person stay on the path of purity?
By living according to your word.
¹⁰I seek you with all my heart;
do not let me stray from your commands.
¹¹I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you.
Psalm 119:9-11 (NIV)*

To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. ²I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. ³You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

⁴Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.

Revelation 2:1-4 (NIV)

Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first.

Revelation 2:5 (NIV)