

## Greatest command

**The greatest commands-** Mark 12:28-31 - 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."

(Deut 6:5 (Heart, soul, Strength)), (Lev 19:18)

### Yourself-

#### What man mistakes as loving self

- Making sure you are first, Thinking highly of yourself, Not letting anyone get over on you & Doing "You"

**What this really is** - 2 Tim 3:1-2 - But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 **People will be lovers of themselves...** \*lover of own self - philautos (fil'-ow-tos); fond of self, i.e. selfish: (lover of own self).

**Characteristics of Love shows loving self, is actually denying self** - 1 Cor 13:4-7 - 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

**Unfortunately we tend to measure ourselves by what "we think is right" which is very bad judgment** - 2 Cor 10:12-13 - 12 We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, **they are not wise**. 13 We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the field God has assigned to us, a field that reaches even to you.

**We lived deceived when we see ourselves based on what we think, not what God says** - Gal 6:3-4 - 3 If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 Each one should test his own actions. **THEN** he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else,

**Self can never be the purpose and things cannot be based on self** - Phil 2:3-4- 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

**We must humble ourselves** - Luke 14:11 For **everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.**"

**Strive for Heavenly riches not for worldly riches** - Matt 6:19-21 - 19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**We must deny ourselves and live with Christ as the purpose** - Luke 9:23-25 - 23 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. 25 What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?"

**Truly loving self realizes the most dangerous thing to self is self** - Rom 7:23-25 - 23 but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. 24 **What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?** 25 **Thanks be to God — through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

### Neighbor-

\* **Loving ourselves required denying ourselves and living God purposed. In the same way we are to love our neighbors not for them but through and by God.**

**"Everyone" is considered our neighbor** - Luke 10:29-37 - 29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And **who is my neighbor?**" 30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' 36 "**Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?**" 37 The expert in the law replied, "**The one who had mercy on him.**" Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

**Do not try to hurt your neighbor but love the neighbor as yourself in Christ** - Gal 5:13-15 - 13 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. 14 The entire law is summed up in a single command: "**Love your neighbor as yourself.**" 15 If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

**Look out for other interests along with ours** - Phil 2:4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

**We do not live for ourselves but for the GOOD of our neighbor –**

Rom 15:1-3 - We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. 2 Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. 3 For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me."

1 Cor 10:33 even as I try to please everybody in every way. For I am not **seeking my own good but the good of many,** so that they may be saved.

**We must make sure our freedoms don't cause our brothers to fall** - Rom 14:15 If your brother is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy your brother for whom Christ died.

**Hating our brother is murder, not loving our brother frames us as not being Christian** - 1 John 3:14-15 - 14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. 15 Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.

**We must live our lives owing other love daily** - Rom 13:8-10 - 8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the CONTINUING debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and **whatever other commandment there may be,** are summed up in this one rule: "**Love your neighbor as yourself.**" 10 Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

**Favoritism is unacceptable** - James 2:8-9 - 8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "**Love your neighbor as yourself,**" **you are doing right.** 9 But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

**Help them but don't enable them**

Gal 6:2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Gal 6:5 for each one should carry his own load.

**God-**

**No one (and I mean NO ONE) comes before God** - Matt 10:37-39 - 37 "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is **not worthy of me;** anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is **not worthy of me;** 38 and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is **not worthy of me.** 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

**We can serve NO ONE other than God** - Matt 6:24 "**No one can serve two masters.** Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

**To love God is to Revere God** - Heb 12:28-29 - 28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, 29 for our "God is a consuming fire."

**Doing exactly what God tells us shows if we love HIM or not –**

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

1 John 5:3-5 - 3 **This is love for God:** to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, 4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

**Love God by loving our brothers** - 1 John 4:19-21 - 19 We love because he first loved us. 20 If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. 21 And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

**Loving our brothers will be displayed in our actions for our brothers –**

Matt 25:34-36 - 34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'"

Matt 25:40 "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, **whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'**"

Matt 25:45 -46- 45 "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, **whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'** 46 "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

**You cannot love the world and love God** - James 4:4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

**We must do everything God-purposed** - 1 Cor 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.