

The Command To Love God Supremely! **(Matthew 22:34-40)**

(Sunday, May 1, 2016)

Our Lord defined our first duty toward God in terms of loving Him supremely. When the lawyer who was trying to trick Jesus asked Him which was the greatest of the commandments, Jesus responded that man's first responsibility toward God is that of love.

I. People do not naturally love God.

A. In the natural, people find it impossible to love God, because God has been misrepresented.

From the beginning of human history, Satan has misrepresented the nature and character of God. He has raised questions concerning the goodness of God and has raised doubts concerning the wisdom of God. He has said dark and hard things about God that has caused people to be frightened when considering the Creator. Satan has blamed God for all of the tragedy and misfortune that have befallen the human race.

(Sunday, May 8, 2016)

B. Many do not love God and choose to live in disobedience to His commandments.

They consider His commandments as obstacles to their chosen way of life. They visualize God as someone who would prevent them from doing what they would like to do. Because of sin and because of the moral law that is within the human heart, people know that one day they must face their creator and give an account of their lives.

(Sunday, May 15, 2016)

II. The Gospel reveals that God is lovable and should be loved (1 John 4:19).

A. To hear and believe the gospel makes it possible for a person to consider loving God. As one hears the gospel, he becomes convinced that God is worthy of adoration, devotion, and confidence.

B. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is supremely lovable. He is not only our Creator but also our Redeemer. He wants to guide us and empower us that we might live victorious lives.

- C. God's love is without blemish.
- D. God's love is all-inclusive and unchangeable.
- E. God's love is unfailing, and it will never be exhausted.

(Sunday, May 22, 2016)

III. We must express our love to God.

As the Psalmist contemplated the goodness of God, he asked, "*What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?*" (Ps. 116:12). There are many ways by which we can give expression of our love for God.

A. We express our love for God by obeying His commands.

Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

Joyful and eager obedience to His gracious commands is perhaps the best way by which we can demonstrate love for Him.

B. We show our love by constant loyalty to Him as He reveals His will to us.

C. We express our love for Him who first loved us by unselfish and devoted service to Him and to others.

(Sunday, May 29, 2016)

IV. The results of obeying the command to love God supremely.

Some people think that living a life of loving obedience to God would be burdensome and boring. An examination of the lives of those who have sought to do so proves the contrary.

A. To love God supremely is to experience the highest possible level of manhood or womanhood. Man at his best is one who walks and talks with God in a life of fellowship and friendship.

B. Obedience to the Lord causes one's life to be enriched by the blessings of God.

C. To live the life of loving obedience to God causes a person to love his fellow humans more and causes him to spend his life in service to others.

To love God supremely means that we will be saved from loving something of lesser importance, or from becoming idolaters. Only when we love God supremely will other things find their proper place in life. We can show our love for our Lord by obeying His first and greatest commandment, which contains in capsule form all of the commandments that relate to our responsibility to Him and to our fellow humans.