

### Love from the Mind

The last several days we have talked about loving God with our affections and total being. We now turn to the final part of the great commandment trio. Believers are called to love God with their minds. This can sound challenging but, when tried, it will be found to be the very source of passion for loving God. To love the Lord with all your mind means that we study, learn, read, and think about God in all His revealed fullness. The quest to love the Lord with all your mind is a never-ending journey, yet it is a journey of wonder and excitement. This is why Paul, when he was leaving Ephesus, told them, "... for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God." Paul understood that the full counsel of God is what God uses to sanctify all those who are saved. There are several things in the Bible that can be difficult to understand, yet when we study the character of God, that is where the great reward is found. When a believer studies who God is, this interaction with the truth will pour forth in praise and worship to the God who saves. Take time today to study one of the attributes of God and praise Him for who He is.



Saturday, November 7, 2020

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### Love for your neighbor as yourself

After we have focused on loving God with our whole being, we see that the natural outcome is love for others. When we love God, we will love every image-bearer created by Him. Since every human being is made in the image of God, we will love others just like we love ourselves. Therefore, racism and hatred have no place in a believer's heart. Notice we are never commanded to love ourselves; we all love ourselves because we are sinners who naturally love ourselves. When we focus on God, we cannot focus on ourselves. Read Luke 10:25-37. In this parable, we see a man focused on others and not himself. What are some ways you can focus on others today instead of yourself? Remember, begin first by setting your heart, mind, and soul to love the Lord and then you will love others.

### The Call to All Believers

*And he said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

Matthew 22:37-39

Monday, November 2, 2020

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### **The Greatest Commandment**

We are the creatures and God is the Creator. Understanding this relationship helps us understand how we are to live and why God has given commandments for us to follow. Since we are created beings, we are sustained by God. One of my favorite lines in the hymn, *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* is, “while all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care.” We do borrow life from God and, since He is the Life Giver, this gives Him the right to tell us how to live. When God tells us how to live, He commands us to live according to the wisest and best way to live. God’s commandments show us how to live and live in a way that will bring a joyful life on earth. Yet, Satan and our sinful desires draw us into thinking that God’s commandments are not good and even harmful. Spend time today reading Psalm 119, underlining all the places where the psalmist speaks of the precepts, testimonies, and commandments of God, and see how he describes them. Then spend time in prayer asking that God would change your desires to love His commandments more than life itself.

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

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### **Love God**

For those who have been in the church for any amount of time, the phrase “love God” is one you have heard many times. Today, let’s take some time to think about each word in the short phrase. The word “love” means “an intense feeling of deep affection.” So, the call to love God is a call to set your affections toward Him. Why? Read I John 4:19-21. In this passage we see that God loved us before we loved Him, and we see that love for God is the starting point to loving others. For a believer, to love anything more than God would be placing that thing before God. In the Ten Commandments, Israel was called to not worship or have any other gods before the one true God. One of the reasons for this was that all other gods do not compare to the one true God. God is the only one worthy of our praise and love. Read Psalm 95:1-11 and see how the psalmist turns his deep affection toward God. Then pray and ask God to continue to cause you to love Him more.

Wednesday, November 4, 2020

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### **Love from the Heart**

The heart of a person is more than the muscle pumping blood. Proverbs 4:23 reminds us to “*Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.*” The heart is the center of one’s will, desires, passions, and affections. As the heart goes, so goes the person. Therefore, we are called to guard the heart with great diligence. In Jeremiah 17:9, we are reminded that “*The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?*” The heart is easily deceived and needs to be guarded by the Word of God. This is one reason to memorize the Word of God. Psalms 119:14: “*I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.*” There is a battle each day for your heart. Where will you place your affections? A heart that is in love with God will be a heart that is pursuing after what eternally matters. A heart that is in love with anything other than God will keep pursuing things that do not eternally matter and they will never satisfy. Pray that God gives you a heart wholly devoted to Him.

Thursday, November 5, 2020

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### **Love from the Soul**

Along with our hearts, we are called to love God with all our soul. In the first five books of the Old Testament, the “soul” refers to one’s whole being as a living person, which includes one’s “heart,” but is so much more. For example, in Genesis 2:7 we are told that “*God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living [soul] creature.*” So we are to love God with our passions and desire. But we are also to love him with how we talk, and what we do with our hands, and how we utilize our talents, and how we react to challenges — our entire being is to display that we love God. This concept is seen multiple times in the Bible, such as in I Corinthians 10:31: “*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*” Here we see again that whatever we are doing we are to desire to give God the glory. When we love the Lord with all our soul then we will desire above all to bring glory to God. We glorify what we love. Let us pray this prayer together: Dear Heavenly Father, give me the strength to love you with all my being. Help me love you as I walk this pilgrim path. Take my life and let it be fully committed to you. May you receive all the glory and praise. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.