



First Baptist Church of Cypress
GOD'S LOVE LEADS US TO LOVE
Mark 12:13-27

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Good morning church! I hope everyone is doing okay and we miss you all very much. I'm reminded that during a time such as this that Christians need to be mindful of John 13:35 which says "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." Today, our message is just that! The world is watching what will happen next. The world is ready for a Savior and ready to make some significant decisions to make such hope possible. The world may not follow, but they will know clearly who our God is and we are his followers if we love one another. You see: our love is a direct reflection of how we love God. Let us read today's passage,

Mark 12:28-34

"And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" 29 Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 And you shall 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: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." 32 And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. 33 And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." 34 And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions."

- We PRACTICE out our faith because of our trust in the PERSON of faith

1. God's Love LEADS Us to Love OTHERS. (v 29-31)

Loving God is loving what he loves: people! When we hate a person, can't forgive or move to a love for other people including our enemies, we override this command to love and act like it is okay. When we are satisfied to not love others we are satisfied to not love God. This should compel us to obey the Lord in these commandments for God to be pleased.

- We can know the true joys of HUMAN love only if love for GOD first rules our HEARTS.

“Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love.” **1 John 4:7-8**

- Loving others DEMONSTRATES a complete DUTY of Christian love.

“If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well.” **James 2:8**

2. God’s Love UNDERSTANDS God’s TRUTH. (v 32-33)

This is great to see this Scribe agree with Jesus and declare “there is one God, and there is no other but He.” This guy was religious but had no relationship. In the OT, the people were to think about these commandments and meditate on them so that obedience would not be a matter of formal legalism, but a response based upon understanding. The law written upon the heart would be an essential characteristic of the later New Covenant.

“It is clear that you are Christ’s letter, produced by us, not written with ink but with the Spirit of the living God—not on stone tablets but on tablets that are hearts of flesh.” **2 Corinthians 3:3**

“For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.” **Hosea 6:6**

We could agree with Jesus and the Scribes that loving God and others is important! BUT... be careful to not miss the Truth of God!

- UNDERSTANDING the requirements of love is not EXPERIENCING God’s Love.
- KNOWLEDGE and BELIEF does not grant us access to Heaven.
- FOLLOWING Jesus through FAITH grants us access to Heaven.

God’s mercy is found in Christ!!! But since no sinner can obey perfectly, the impossible demands of the law are meant to drive us to seek divine mercy. From what we can tell, this man did not respond with a confession of his own guilt, nor did he trust in Christ to experience God’s love fully. Don’t be like this man and miss out on Experiencing God’s love and life that he has for you! We can share this love with others!