

**Love is all you need...  
Matt 22:34-40**

***The Beatles declared that “all you need is love”, it was a hit song and a mantra for a generation – LOVE! Interestingly, there is some truth in this statement – but perhaps not in the way that John, Paul, George and Ringo meant it.***

**Round Three...**

But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together.

- 1. I'm sure that the Pharisee's weren't overly upset that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, since they really didn't like them much anyway.**
  - a. They probably talked a little smack – “I knew they weren't up to the task – but maybe they softened Him up a little”**
  - b. And so they step back into the ring for round three.**

35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying,  
36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

- c. So it is possible that this lawyer, or scribe as they were known, was asking an honest question, to which Jesus gives an honest answer, quoting from Deut chapter 6:**

37 Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment.

***Deut 6:4-5***

*"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.*

- 2. This is what you call a declarative statement – it makes a declaration.**
  - a. “You shall love the LORD your God...”**
  - b. “You shall” – at first glance I might read that and think “So, God is commanding me to love him. Wow.” I mean, how would you react if someone came up to you and said “you will love me – right now!”**
  - c. Seems a bit forward... But let's put it into perspective. We know that we have a free will that we can exercise. We can choose whether or not we want a relationship with God.**
  - d. So the statement really comes as a response to the question “If I want to be in a relationship with God, what is my part?”**

- e. And the reality is that God is not looking for friends, or people to hang out with. God is interested in one thing, and one thing only – a LOVE RELATIONSHIP.
  - f. And we also know that He loved us first –  
  
*1 John 4:19 “We love Him because He first loved us.”*
  - g. so if He loved us first, and the basis of a relationship with God is love – then for the relationship to be complete our part is to love Him.
3. Look at it this way – you are in a relationship with girl (a God chick!), and you have come to the conclusion that you love her, and you want to spend the rest of your life with her – you want to get married!
- a. And so you approach her – the object of your love and affection, and you propose. And she says *“umm, OK, I think that would be OK, I’ll try it out for a while and see what happens. But I have to tell you I don’t really love you.”*
  - b. Where would you go from there? Fact is, unless she loves you, this thing just isn’t going to work.
4. That’s how it is with God – He can love us all day long, but if we don’t love Him then there is no relationship.
- a. So I believe it is not so much a demand as it is a declarative statement: If we want to be in a relationship with God, the first thing is to develop a love for Him.
  - b. That is the point where many people stop and say “but how?”
5. Good question – so we look at the second part of the verse: *love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.*

## **How to Love God**

### **With your heart...**

6. In the Greek, the word is *kardia*. It means: The seat in the center of man’s inward life.
- a. It is the person inside your head, where your intentions and motives arise.
  - b. Looking at with words of Jesus we get a picture...
    - i. Matt 5:8 ...blessed are the pure in heart
    - ii. Matt 5:28 ...committed adultery in your heart.
    - iii. Matt 6:21 ...where your treasure is, there will your heart be.
    - iv. Matt 12:35 ...out of a good heart comes good things, out of an evil heart come evil things...

- v. **Matt 15:18 ...out of your mouth comes the things that are in your heart.**
  - c. **In other words, the heart is the place where our actions are birthed – it is where we decide whether we will do good, or do evil.**
- 7. Now one might say “How can I change my heart?” Man I tell you, I certainly couldn’t. But there one who can – GOD**

**Rom 5:1-2, 5**

*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

- a. **In other words, when we enter into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, something supernatural happens: God removes the heart that loves evil, and He gives us a new heart.**
- b. **...and He pours out His love through the Holy Spirit into our new heart - and we begin to change!**

**Ezek 36:26-27**

*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.*

- 8. That is what happened to me: After I became a Christian, a very different thing happened, my heart began to change – and a love began to grow for God.**
- a. **There are many things that happen at salvation, but one of the significant things is that we receive a new heart – a heart transplant!**

**With your soul...**

- 9. The Greek word is *psuche*, in which we get our prefix-word, psycho, for words like: psychology,**
- a. **The literal meaning is *Breath*, and the Greek word is often translated as *life – it is who we are...***

**Luke 9:24**

*For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.*

**Matt 26:38**

*"My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."*

- b. It refers to our feelings, emotions, and attitudes.
  - c. Now we all know that emotions can be hard to control – we lose them often!
  - d. But interestingly, as we grow in our relationship with God our emotions will begin to follow our heart.
10. **Example:** When my wife and I first got married, we thought we were in love, but in reality I didn't know what love was.
- a. I had a warped perspective of love and relationships, and I usually confused infatuation or physical attraction for love.
  - b. But as we grew in our relationship, and we learned more about one another, we began to discover love. Matter of fact, I learned that love was a choice – I could chose to love, or not love, my wife.
  - c. And the more that I learned that I could trust her, that I could confide in her, that she had my best interest at heart, I began to choose to love her.
11. Same with God – the more we learn about Him, how He loves us, how he cares about us, how we can trust Him, how He always has our best interest at heart...
- a. We begin to choose to love God – and the emotion of the deeper relationship grows.

***With your mind...***

12. The next – Mind - The Greek word Jesus used for “mind” is *dianoia*, which means: Deep though, exercising the mind, to think through.
- a. our mind is our intellect—the place where we analyze, figure-out and plan things; the place where knowledge and understanding are analyzed and manipulated to bring about a conclusion or decision.
  - b. Here is the thing - I cannot change my heart, only God can do that... but I can change my mind!
  - c. See if I am putting things into my mind that are corrupt or sensual, my mind is aligned with those things
  - d. Paul encouraged us to set our minds on things above...

***Col 3:2***

*Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.*

- e. To learn the things of Christ...

**Eph 4:20-24**

*But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*

- f. **By doing this we align our mind with the truth of God, contained in His word, and as a result our conclusions and decisions are based on His truth and His word.**

**John 14:21**

*He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me.*

- 13. **Some might say that all this is brainwashing (perhaps – some of our brains needed to be washed!)... But I think a better description would be mind renewal!**

- a. **In Eph 4 Paul talks about how the unsaved man walks in the *futility of his mind*, but the Christian is *renewed in the spirit of his mind*.**

**Eph 4:17-24**

*This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.*

*But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*

- b. **And that is the beauty of loving God – that as we walk with Him, learn Him, take in the truth of His word,**
- c. **God gives us a new heart, he deepens the relationship, and He changes us.**

- 14. **And that changes our relationship with others...**

**Love others...**

39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

**Lev 19:17-18**

*'You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.*

- a. **You neighbor here is not the person who lives next door, but the people who are close to you, the people you are around, your circle (hence the term “brother”)**
- b. **Now I know some of you are not that crazy about the people around you... you’re thinking “you don’t know my family, that is asking a bit much...”**

**15. Here is a bit of counsel: If you want to change the dynamic of your relationship with others – you have to change!**

- a. **Doesn’t seem fair does it? Well fair doesn’t have anything to do with it.**
- b. **But here is the cool thing – when we are growing in our relationship with God, learning to love Him with our heart, mind, and soul... we change!**

**16. So again, instead of looking at this as a demand “you better love your neighbor!” – it is actually a result of loving God and being changed by Him**

- a. **When we get our vertical relationship aligned – then our horizontal relationships will take care of themselves.**
- b. **In other words, the Beatles were right – all you need is love!**

40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

**Rom 13:8-10**

*Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

**17. And here is the promise that goes with this –**

***John 14:21***

*He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."*

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