

LOVING GOD

CHURCH | AT | BERGEN

Sermon Text

Mark 12:28-34

Sermon Recap

The sermon was based upon Jesus' teaching about the most important command: *to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength*. We addressed the topic of what it really means to love God and how our mind relates to our love for God.

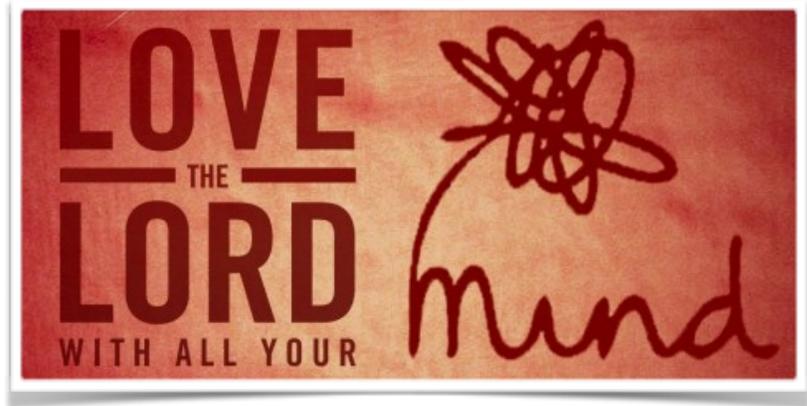
Sermon Highlights

Loving God is the most important thing anyone can ever do.

The only God you are commanded to love is the God of the Bible.

Love for God is delight in God fueled by doctrine about God.

Knowing God is of utmost importance because it is the one thing that can create true love for God.



Study Questions

1. How do you personally know if you love someone or something?
2. What are some different ways that you have heard “love for God” defined or taught? How do those definitions compare to the sermon?
3. Look at the following verses: Mark 7:6-7 and Revelation 3:15-16. How do these verses describe how you should *feel* about God? How does this relate to your love for God?
4. How does Romans 10:1-2 reveal the relationship between strong feelings for God and your knowledge of God?
5. There were 2 kinds of errors (listed below) that people tend to fall into. Which of the two can you identify with most? What do you think are some practical steps you can take to gain some balance?



FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

Family Discipleship

Questions

- Take some time to read Mark 12:28-34. Discuss what you all think it means to love God.
- Do you think loving God is more about what you do, what you think, or what you feel about God? What do you think it means to love God with our minds?
- How do you think learning more about God could help your love for him grow bigger?
- How can we encourage each other as a family to know God?

Sound Bites

Know God to love God.

Moments

- Look for opportunities this week to show how something you *learned* from the Bible increased your *desire and love* for Jesus.
- Try memorizing a verse about loving God together as a family and take advantage of moments to talk about how the verse blessed you one day.

1) *Affection for God without Knowledge of God = Mindless Emotion*

2) *Knowledge of God without Affection for God = Heartless Ritualism*

6. How does the relationship between your knowledge of God and your affection for God encourage or challenge you to make some changes in your personal knowledge of God?

Going Deeper

1. Study Romans 5:5-8 again to see if you can figure out the relationship between your subjective experience of the love of God by the Holy Spirit and objective truth about Christ's death for your sins.

2. Study 1 Peter 1:8-9 and think through the way that Peter relates joy, faith, and salvation. How does this verse seem to demonstrate the necessity of our affections for God?

Prayer

1. Take one of the verses from the sermon and memorize it, then pray and ask God to make it impact your heart more deeply.
2. Pray for God to help you know him better in order to love him more passionately.
3. Pray for God to grow your desire to see others know God.

