

Jesus Gives the Greatest Commandments

Mark 12:28-31 One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, "What commandment is the foremost of all?" Jesus answered, "The foremost is, HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; 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. The second is this, YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF. There is no other commandment greater than these."

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The Scribe's Pietistic Reply

Mark 12:32-33 The scribe said to Him, "Right, Teacher; You have truly stated that HE IS ONE, AND THERE IS NO ONE ELSE BESIDES HIM; 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 HIMSELF, is much more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

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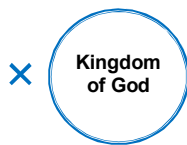
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Jesus Refutes the Man's Self Righteousness

Mark 12:34 When Jesus saw that he had answered intelligently, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that, no one would venture to ask Him any more questions.



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### Applications

1. We must remember that the depravity of mankind keeps the natural man from being able to love God and neighbor as we should.
2. We must remember that the only way into the kingdom of God is by trusting in the perfect work of Christ.
3. We must know that only the Spirit can enable us to love God and others as we should.

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### 1. Depravity Prevents Man's Obedience

Psalm 14:3 They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; **there is no one who does good**, not even one.

Isaiah 64:6 For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and **all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment**; and all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

Romans 8:7-8 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. **Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**

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### 2. Entrance into the Kingdom by Faith – Not Works

Mark 12:33 to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as himself, **is much more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.**+

1 Samuel 15:22 Samuel said, **Was the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice**, and to heed than the fat of rams.

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**2. Entrance into the Kingdom by Faith – Not Works**

Galatians 2:16 nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; **since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.**

Ephesians 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For **we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

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**3. The Spirit Enables Us to Love God and Others**

Deuteronomy 30:6-8 Moreover **the LORD your God will circumcise your heart** and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.

Jeremiah 31:33 But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,+ declares the LORD, **%will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it**; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

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**3. The Spirit Enables Us to Love God and Others**

Daniel 9:4 I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed and said, **%Alas, O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments**

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is **love**, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

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