

From Matthew 5: ⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, ⁴⁵that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more *than others*? Do not even the tax collectors do so? ⁴⁸Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Sunday: Why does Jesus tell us to love our enemies? Pray with Westminster, Colo., RPC for their current and future elders; **pray** for men to discern whether they are being called and for wisdom as the congregation seeks to select one or two more elders. **Pray** for those who mourn, including the families of the following churchmen who passed away this past week: George Evans (former mayor of Selma, Ala. and elder, Selma RPC); Dr. Harry Reeder (pastor, Briarwood Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, Ala.); Dr. Tim Keller (founding pastor, Redeemer Presbyterian Church, New York, N.Y.); and Gordon Keddie (retired RP pastor, Indianapolis, Ind.)

Monday: Do you love your enemies? Pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon Atlanta, Ga., RPC, leading to lives that are more sanctified. **Pray** for Letterkenny (Northern Ireland) RPC, that it would have a building, and for its evangelism efforts.

Tuesday: In what practical ways can you love your enemies? Pray with Stillwater, Okla., RPC for Pastor Bruce Parnell, as he began a sermon series in I Peter in December; **pray** that the members would apply what they learn each week. **Pray** for the assimilation of newcomers into Frankston (Australia) RPC.

Wednesday: What are ways that God shows kindness to His enemies? Pray with Columbus, Ind., RPC that the Lord would bless Ed Schisler in his recent retirement from the eldership after 44 years of faithful labor; **pray** that the Lord would raise up new officers for the congregation. **Pray** for the South Sudan Community Churches, for growth in grace and understanding; **pray** for missionaries Scott Brinkerhoff, Zach Smith, and Lucas Hanna; **pray** for more missionaries to come and assist.

Thursday: How does Romans 12:17-21 help us in applying Jesus’ teaching? Pray for the children at Washington, Iowa, RPC, that they would grow in the fear and admonition of the Lord. **Pray** for a permanent and suitable place of worship for Stormway (Scotland) RPC. **Pray** for the recent visitors to Airdrie (Scotland) RPC, that the Lord would work in their hearts.

Friday: What is Jesus’ point in mentioning the tax collectors (also known as publicans)? Pray for the Session and Diaconate from Covenant Fellowship (Wilkinsburg, Pa.) RPC as they labor to meet the needs of a growing church body and her families. **Pray** for the Pattillos as they travel today on their way to Pittsburgh, Pa.

Saturday: Is v. 48 teaching that we will be perfect in this life? If not, then what is it teaching? Pray for the large number of children in College Hill (Beaver Falls,

Pa.) RPC, that as they mature they will continue to grow strong in faith, coming to know Jesus as their Savior and Lord early in life. **Pray** for the service at ARPC tomorrow, that many would attend and be challenged and find rest for their souls.

Atlanta Reformed Presbyterian Church

*The Lord’s Day
May 21, 2023*

**Meeting every week at
574 Western Avenue
(corner of Western and Walnut Street)
Atlanta, Georgia**

Worship at 3:30 PM

Pastor Frank J. Smith, Ph.D., D.D.

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<https://atlanta-rpc.org>

(770)241-3946

Proclaiming the Kingship of Jesus Christ

Welcome and Announcements

Scripture Memory and Catechism Questions

The Call to Worship

Philippians 1:2

*The Invocation

*Psalm 106A

“O Praise the Lord! O Thank the Lord!”

Scripture Reading

John 8:47-59

*Psalm 18A

“I Love You, Lord! You Are My Strength”

Pastoral Prayer

*Psalm 138B

“With All My Heart My Thanks I’ll Bring”

Scripture Text

Exodus 20:1-17

The Sermon

“What the First Commandment Requires” (Part 1)

*Prayer

*Psalm 27C

“Leave Me Not Nor Forsake, O God”

*Benediction

*Psalm 68E

“O All Ye Kingdoms of the Earth, Sing Praises unto God”

** Congregation will please stand.*

We are so glad that you could join us today! Please be sure to return next week and bring a friend.

Scripture Memory and Catechism Questions & Answers

“Then I said, ‘Behold, I come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me. I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart.’”—Psalm 40:7-8. “O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day.”—Psalm 119:97.

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”—Psalm 119:105.

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”—John 10:11.

Q. 4 What is God? A. God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

Q. 40. What did God at first reveal to man for the rule of his obedience? A. The rule which God at first revealed to man for his obedience was the moral law.

Q. 41. Where is the moral law summarily comprehended? A. The moral law is summarily comprehended in the ten commandments.

Q. 42. What is the sum of the ten commandments? A. The sum of the ten commandments is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and our neighbor as ourselves.

For your convenience, a tithe box is located at the back.

The law tells us whom we are to know, worship, and obey.

I. Knowing God

A. The knowledge about Him

1. We must know that God is—Heb. 11:6; Isa. 43:10

2. We must know Him in all those attributes and perfections

a. Ignorance is not bliss—I Chron. 28:9

b. Some of His attributes/characteristics

(1) His Spirituality—John 4:24

(2) His infinity—I Kings 8:27; Jeremiah 23:24

(3) His eternity—Psalm 90:2

(4) His unchangeableness—Malachi 3:6; James 1:17

(5) His wisdom—Psalm 147:5; Romans 16:27

(6) His power—Genesis 17:1; Revelation 19:6

(7) His holiness—Isaiah 6:3; 57:15; John 17:11

(8) His justice—Deuteronomy 32:4

(9) His goodness—Psalm 100:5; I John 4:8; Exodus 34:6

(10) His truth—Psalm 117:2

(11) His Tri-unity—Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19

(12) His being personal—“I” brought them out of Egypt

B. The knowing of God

1. We must acknowledge that He is the one, true, living God

2. We must own God for our very own

Application

A. You must recognize the one, true, and living God

1. Not a God of your imagination

2. The eternal, infinite God, who exists in three persons

B. You must proclaim the truth of God

1. Each of us is a witness (Isa. 43:10, 12)

2. Together, we are God’s servants

C. You must have faith in Jesus

1. Isaiah 43:11
2. John 8—Jesus clearly claimed to be “I AM”
3. John 20—Thomas’ confession: “my Lord and my God”