

God Wants All the Love In Your Heart, All the Time and For All Your Life!

Matthew 22:37-40 by Pastor Dan Dickerson

Introduction

- We often have a dilemma of misunderstanding what love really means!
- Solomon understood that real love and love relationship is evidenced by sacrificial action
1 Kings 3:23-28
- God's Word reveals to us that God really wants all the love in our heart, all the time and for all our lives!

1. The Greatest Command – Matthew 22:37-49

- **Love the Lord your God with all your heart** – the core and essence of your being, where we believe, trust, submit, worship, choose – Romans 10:9-11
- **Love the Lord your God with all your soul** – your inner person including your emotions
Matthew 22:37
- **Love the Lord your God with all your mind** – your intellect and thinking – Matthew 22:37
- **Love the Lord your God with all your strength** – your whole being including your body
Mark 12:33
- **Love your neighbor as yourself** is the **second** greatest commandment – genuine love for God is followed in importance by genuine love for people – measure your love for others by what you wish for yourself – Matthew 22:38-40

2. The Great Warning – Don't let other loves steal away your first love for God

- The danger of sexual pleasure outside of one-man one-woman marriage – David illustrates the need to stay within God's freedom boundaries of **biblical marriage** – Psalm 51:1-4
- The danger of a selfish love of pleasure, possessions, wealth and power – Solomon illustrates the need to stay within God's freedom boundaries for contentment in what God provides as we **reverence and obey** Him – Ecclesiastes 12:1, 13-14
- Run as fast as you can for God and when it comes time to marry, look around and see who is running next to you!

3. The Greatest Example –Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, loved and glorified God the Father all the time for all His life on earth – Hebrews 12:1-2

- Jesus showed His loving submission to God and God-given authority in his **youth** – Luke 2:49-51
- Jesus showed His loving submission to God's plan as a **Holy Spirit filled** and controlled human being throughout his ministry – Luke 4:1
- Jesus showed His loving submission to God the Father in life, death and eternity – John 17:1; Philippians 2:5-11

Application

- **Confess and forsake the sins of failure to love God supremely and failure to love others as I love myself.**
- **Repent of sin and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior from sin and self.**
- **Act in love toward God and grow in that kind of sacrificial love**
- **Act in love toward others and grow in that kind of sacrificial love**
- **As a church, let us love each other and our community like Jesus loves**
- **Love God with all your heart, all the time for all your life!**
- **Love God with all your heart!**

Discussion as a family or small group

- **What other loves are tending to crowd out first love for God in general in the world today?**
- **What other loves are tending to crowd out our first love for God in our own local church and our own family and our own lives?**
- **How could we sacrificially act in love toward God as a group, as a church, as a family, as an individual?**
- **How could we sacrificially act in love toward others as a group, as a church, as a family, as an individual?**
- **Close in prayer thanking God the Father and Son and Holy Spirit for His sacrificial love toward us and praying for grace to love Him with all our heart and to love our neighbors and people in need with that same kind of love.**