

God Wants All the Love In Your Heart, All the Time and For All Your Life! Part 2

Love God Enough to Say No to Sin!

Matthew 22:37-40
by Pastor Dan Dickerson

Introduction

- We often have a dilemma when tempted to sin of thinking no one will know!
- We need to love God enough to say no to sin and yes to the reality that God always sees our actions and motivations – Proverbs 15:3
- God's Word reveals to us that God really wants all the love in your heart, all the time and for all our lives!

1. The Greatest Command – Matthew 22:37-40

- **Love the Lord your God with all your heart** – the core and essence of your being, where we believe, trust, submit, worship, choose – Matthew 22:37; 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 **revere and obey** Him
 - Solomon started off well by asking God for **wisdom** to love and serve others
2 Chronicles 1:10-12
 - Solomon was greatly blessed as God promised – 1 Kings 5:12; 10:6-9; Matthew 6:33
 - Solomon built and dedicated the temple to God's glory – 1 Kings 9:1-3
 - Solomon was **warned** by God to keep loving and obeying God with all his heart for all his life
1 Kings 9:4-7
 - Solomon was taught by God to read and obey God's word daily so as to guard his heart
Deuteronomy 17:18-20
 - Solomon was specifically commanded by God not to multiply horses, **wives** or greatly multiply silver and gold for himself – Deuteronomy 17:14-17
 - Solomon's undivided heart of love became divided when he failed to say yes to God's Word and instead he said yes to **sin**, losing God's full blessings – 1 Kings 11:1-14, 23, 26
 - God's word teaches us to have godly **contentment** with what God provides – Hebrews 13:5; 1 Timothy 6:5-6
 - Solomon's sin hurt his testimony and led to the Kingdom of Israel being divided under his son – 1 Kings 11:31
 - Solomon teaches us through his corrected failures the vanity and **emptiness** of seeking satisfaction apart from God's will and word in Ecclesiastes.
 - Knowledge apart from God – Ecclesiastes 1:18
 - **Pleasure** apart from God – Ecclesiastes 2:1-3; 1 Timothy 6:17
 - Building projects and possessions apart from God – Ecclesiastes 2:4-6
 - More **possessions** apart from God – Ecclesiastes 2:7
 - Piling up silver and gold and treasure for **himself** apart from God – Ecclesiastes 2:8

- Fine arts and music apart from God – Ecclesiastes 2:8-9
- Seeking whatever the eyes could desire apart from God – Ecclesiastes 2:10-11
- Solomon teaches us positive hard learned lessons from wasted years...
 - Love God with all your heart in your youth and keep loving him all your life Ecclesiastes 12:1
 - Reverence, respect and love God with all your heart all your life – Ecclesiastes 12:13
 - Show your love by faithful sacrificial obedience all your days – Ecclesiastes 12:13
 - Live in the light of eternal accountability – Ecclesiastes 12:14
 - Someone is watching!

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

- 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, times of temptation, death and eternity – John 17:1; Matthew 4:1-11; Philippians 2:5-11

Application

- **Confess and forsake the sins of failure to love God supremely, failure to love others as I love myself and failures to say no to temptation to sin – 1 Corinthians 10:13; 1 John 1:9**
- **Repent of sin and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior from sin and self John 1:12**
- **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 and for all your life!**
- **Love God with all your heart!**
- **Live by the truth that saying yes to Jesus means saying no to sin!**

Discussion as a family or small group

- **When have you been tempted to think no one will ever know? Why is that thinking so wrong?**
- **How can things that are not sinful in and of themselves like pleasure, possessions, positions, and power become sinful to us as believers?**
- **Do we really believe that godliness with contentment is great gain? How does Satan try to deceive us?**
- **Solomon and Jesus both were tempted by sinful pleasures, and seeking sinful possessions and sinful positions outside God's will or timing. Discuss the different outcomes of their choices.**
- **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?**
- **Discuss why the following statement is biblically true...Saying yes to Jesus means saying no to sin.**
- **Close in prayer thanking God the Father and Son and Holy Spirit for His sacrificial love toward us. Ask God for strength to follow Jesus' example of loving obedience to God the Father. Pray for grace to love Him with all your heart and to love your neighbors and people in need with that same kind of love to the point that you will say no to sin.**