



🕒 UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- For those who would like to build a stronger foundation in their faith, CCC will be offering a 7-week 101 Foundation Course beginning Sunday, September 20, from 1:30–3:30 PM.
 - Men's Bowling will be held on September 13 from 5:00–8:00 PM. The cost is \$25 per person.
 - Lastly, Joy of Living will resume September 17th.
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🕒 THIS WEEK

- Now let's continue with our Discipleship series. This week Pastor Cammeron continues our series by focusing in on what it means to love God and others.
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📖 STUDY the text

- 📖 **Lets begin by reading Matthew 22:36–37, Deuteronomy 6:4–5, John 15:10, and 1 John 4:19.**

Matthew 22:36-37 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

John 15:10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

1 John 4:19 We love because he first loved us.

📖 Sermon Question 1:

What does it mean to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength? How is that different from simply having loving feelings toward God? 1 John 4:19 says, "We love because He first loved us." How does receiving God's love change the way we respond to Him? Can someone genuinely love God while consistently resisting what He asks them to do? Why or why not?



- ☞ Now let's continue by reading Matthew 22:38–40, John 13:34–35, and Philippians 2:3–4.

Matthew 22:38-40 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Philippians 2:3-4 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

☞ **Sermon Question 2:**

What does Jesus mean when He says, "Love one another as I have loved you"? What makes His love different from ordinary human love? What usually gets in the way of loving people the way Christ loved us? How can the way we treat difficult people reveal whether Christ's love is truly shaping us?

☞ **Finally let's read Mark 10:28–38.**

Mark 10:28-38 Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you." 29 Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, 30 who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first." 32 And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, 33 saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. 34 And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise." 35 And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." 36 And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" 37 And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." 38 Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?"



 Sermon Question 3:

The disciples had already left homes, careers, and security to follow Jesus. What does their desire to be first reveal about the difference between outward sacrifice and inward surrender? What is the difference between wanting to be significant for Christ and wanting to be important in the eyes of others? How can leadership become an opportunity to love God and others?

 LIVE the truth

 If loving God and loving others are the two greatest commandments, what does the way you are presently living reveal about what you love most? Is there an area where you may be serving Christ outwardly but still holding something back inwardly?

 PRAYER Points

 One of the ways we can love others well is through coming along side others to pray for their needs. Is there anyone in the group who is struggling to put God first in their lives? Are others struggling to put the needs of others before their own? Take a moment to pray that God would do a work in their lives.

 Ask if there are any in the group who have personal needs that need to be made and take a moment to pray for those needs.

BIBLE Commentary: Loving God and Loving Others

These passages bring together the two greatest commands Jesus gives: to love God fully and to love others as an expression of that love. Jesus does not describe love for God as a small part of life. He speaks of loving God with the whole person—heart, soul, mind, and strength. That love then becomes visible in the way believers treat others, especially when love requires humility, sacrifice, and service. The passages also expose an important danger: it is possible to make real sacrifices for Christ while still holding on to selfish ambition, recognition, or control in the heart. The deeper issue is not simply whether we serve, sacrifice, or lead, but whether love for God and love for others are truly shaping the motives behind what we do.

1. Loving God With the Whole Life

In Matthew 22:37, Jesus says, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” He is quoting Deuteronomy 6:4–5, where Israel was



commanded to love God completely. The language is intentionally total. God is not asking merely for affection, religious activity, or occasional devotion. He is calling for a love that reaches into every part of life. To love God with the heart involves our desires and affections. To love Him with the soul involves the deepest part of who we are. To love Him with the mind involves the way we think and make decisions. To love Him with our strength involves the practical use of our energy, abilities, and resources.

Biblical love is therefore more than emotion. Feelings may be part of love, but love becomes visible through loyalty, obedience, trust, and action. Jesus makes this connection clear in John 15:9–10 when He connects abiding in His love with keeping His commandments. Obedience does not earn God's love. Rather, obedience becomes one of the natural expressions of a heart that genuinely loves Him. This is why 1 John 4:19 is so important: "We love because He first loved us." Christian love begins with God. We do not manufacture love for Him through religious effort. We respond to the love He has already shown us. The more deeply we understand His grace, patience, sacrifice, and faithfulness toward us, the more naturally love and obedience begin to flow in return.

2. Loving Others as Christ Loved Us

Jesus immediately connects love for God with love for others. Matthew 22:39 says, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," while John 13:34–35 raises the standard even further: "Love one another: just as I have loved you." Jesus Himself becomes the model. His love was patient, sacrificial, humble, forgiving, and willing to serve.

This kind of love goes beyond simply being polite or kind when relationships are easy. Christlike love becomes most visible when loving another person costs us something. Philippians 2:3–5 gives a practical description of this kind of love. Paul says that believers should do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but should humbly consider others and look not only to their own interests but also to the interests of others. This does not mean ignoring legitimate responsibilities or allowing others to mistreat us. It means that self is no longer the only concern. Love creates room for another person's needs, struggles, weaknesses, and interests.

Humility becomes essential because pride naturally asks, "What do I deserve?" Love asks, "How can I serve?" This becomes especially revealing when dealing with difficult people. It is relatively easy to love those who appreciate us, agree with us, or treat us well. The deeper test often comes when someone disappoints us, irritates us, misunderstands us, or fails to give us what we think we deserve. Those moments reveal whether Christ's love is actually shaping the heart.

3. When Sacrifice Still Leaves Something Unsurrendered

Mark 10:28–38 gives an important example through the disciples. Peter reminds Jesus that they had left everything to follow Him. That sacrifice was real. They had left homes, occupations, security, and familiar lives. Yet only a short time later, James and John ask for the highest positions in Jesus' kingdom.



This reveals something important about the human heart. A person can make significant outward sacrifices and still carry inward desires for recognition, position, importance, or control. The problem was not simply that the disciples wanted to matter. Desiring to be useful, effective, or significant for God is not necessarily wrong. The deeper problem was the kind of greatness they were imagining. They were still thinking about greatness in terms of position and status, while Jesus would go on to redefine greatness through service.

In His kingdom, leadership is not primarily an opportunity to be elevated above others. It is an opportunity to love and serve them. This distinction matters because even ministry can become self-centered. A person can preach, lead, sacrifice, give, or serve while still being driven partly by the desire to be noticed, valued, admired, or important. The disciples show that outward surrender does not automatically mean every motive of the heart has been surrendered. Christ continues to work deeper.

4. Love Revealed Through What We Value

Love eventually becomes visible through priorities. What we genuinely value receives our attention. It receives our time. It influences how we use our resources and energy. This does not mean that every hour must be spent in explicitly spiritual activity. Work, rest, family, relationships, and ordinary responsibilities are all legitimate parts of life. But over time, our choices reveal what matters most to us.

If love for God is central, it should increasingly shape the way we make decisions. If love for others is real, it should affect how we use our time and resources. This is why examining what competes for our affection can be so revealing. Success can compete with God. Comfort can compete with God. Approval can compete with God. Relationships, possessions, entertainment, ministry, and even good things can take a place in the heart that belongs only to Him. The issue is not whether these things exist in our lives, but whether they begin to control our desires more than love for God does.

Key Themes

Love for God → Involves the Whole Person

God desires more than emotion or religious activity. He calls for love that shapes the heart, mind, choices, and priorities.

God's Love → Comes First

We love because He first loved us. Christian love is a response to grace, not an attempt to earn it.

Love for Others → Looks Like Christ

Jesus becomes the standard: sacrificial, humble, patient, and willing to serve.

Sacrifice → Does Not Automatically Equal Surrender

The disciples gave up much outwardly, yet still struggled inwardly with status and recognition.



Leadership → Becomes an Avenue for Service

In Christ's kingdom, leadership is not primarily about position but about using influence to love and serve others.

Concluding Thought

Jesus brings the Christian life down to two great commands: love God and love others. Yet these commands reach much deeper than emotion. Love for God affects what we value, what we obey, and what receives our attention. Love for others affects how we serve, how we respond to difficult people, and whether we are willing to consider another person's interests alongside our own.

The disciples remind us that even real sacrifice does not automatically mean every part of the heart has been surrendered. We can serve and still want recognition. We can lead and still make leadership about ourselves. This is why Christian maturity involves allowing God to examine not only what we do, but why we do it.

Ultimately, love is revealed through the direction of the heart. The way we spend our time, attention, resources, and energy says something about what we value most. As we receive more deeply the love God has shown us in Christ, that love should increasingly shape both our devotion to Him and the way we treat the people around us.