

2026-05-10 Points

Title: The Cost of Love: From Ten Commandments to Two

Sermon Summary: This Mother's Day sermon explores how Jesus simplified the Ten Commandments and all Levitical laws into two fundamental commands: love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself. The pastor emphasizes that true Christian living requires dying to self and actively serving others with compassion, not just having good intentions. Using the parable of the Good Samaritan, the message challenges believers to move beyond selfish, comfortable Christianity to a sacrificial love that mirrors Christ's death on the cross. The sermon stresses that eternal life isn't earned through rule-keeping but through faith in Christ, yet genuine faith produces selfless love for others. The pastor warns against American Christianity's tendency toward selfishness and convenience, calling believers to recognize that following Christ means daily crucifying self-interest and actively seeking opportunities to serve those in need.

Key Points:

- The Ten Commandments were given to make Israel distinctly different from other nations, showing them how to live as God's people
- Jesus condensed all the laws into two commands: love God completely and love your neighbor as yourself
- We cannot truly love others unless we first love God with everything we have
- Loving your neighbor means acting sacrificially for those in need, not just for people we like or who can repay us
- The Good Samaritan demonstrated true love through action, not just good intentions or religious appearance
- Inheriting eternal life requires someone to die - Jesus died for us, but we must also die to ourselves daily
- True Christianity is about selflessness, not selfishness; it requires taking personal responsibility rather than expecting others to act
- American Christianity has become too comfortable, focused on what we can get rather than what we can give

- Loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength means giving Him our whole person, not just loving when it's convenient

Scripture Reference:

- Luke 10:25-37 (The Parable of the Good Samaritan)
- Romans 6 (not sinning so grace can abound)
- The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20, Deuteronomy)
- Leviticus (various laws)
- Matthew 22 and Mark 12 (parallel accounts of the greatest commandment)

Stories:

- Humorous story about a farmer, his city bride, and his mother-in-law who was kicked by a mule
- Personal reflection on Mother's Day and the sacrifices mothers make, including physical costs like stretch marks and cavities
- Personal anecdote about the shock of marriage expenses like filling a medicine cabinet
- The Parable of the Good Samaritan: A man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho is beaten, robbed, and left half dead; a priest and Levite pass by without helping; a Samaritan stops, bandages his wounds, takes him to an inn, pays for his care, and promises to cover any additional expenses
- Reference to Stephen's stoning in Acts 7-8 and Jesus standing up from the throne
- The parable of the talents (Matthew 25) regarding rewards in heaven