

# “What Is The Greatest Commandment In the Bible and Why?”

Mark 12:28-34

April 12, 2026

- I. The Bible has so many commands because God lovingly desires your highest \_\_\_\_\_ and your greatest \_\_\_\_\_.

“And he has commanded us to obey all of these laws and to reverence him so that he can preserve us alive as he has until now. For it always goes well with us when we obey all the laws of the Lord our God.”

**Deuteronomy 6:24-25 (TLB)**

“And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to observe the LORD’s commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?”

**Deuteronomy 10:12-13 (NIV)**

- ❖ You have to decide if you really \_\_\_\_\_ that the commands of God are for your highest good and greatest joy.

“If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain

in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”

**John 15:10-11 (NIV)**

“He replied, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.””

**Luke 11:28 (NIV)**

- II. You experience your highest good and greatest joy by \_\_\_\_\_ with all that you are.

““Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’”

**Mark 12:28c-30 (NIV)**

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

**Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (NIV)**

“Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

**John 8:32 (NIV)**

“In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome.”

**1 John 5:3 (NIV)**

- III. The God that you are to love, you must know as he has \_\_\_\_\_ in the scriptures.

“You shall have no other gods before me.”

**Deuteronomy 5:7 (NIV)**

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

**Matthew 6:24 (NIV)**

1. The God we are to love is \_\_\_\_\_  
God in \_\_\_\_\_ but revealed in 3 \_\_\_\_\_.
  
2. The God we are to \_\_\_\_\_ is the only sovereign, the supremely satisfying, the perfectly loving, the infinitely holy, the creator of all and the Lord over all!
  
3. You must get to \_\_\_\_\_ the one true God as revealed in scripture so you can love him with all that you are.

“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.”

**Philippians 1:9-11 (NIV)**

- IV. The distinguishing mark and essence of the Christian life is \_\_\_\_\_!

“Yes, he is very precious to you who believe;”

**1 Peter 2:7a (TLB)**

“Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well... In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,”

**1 John 5:1,3 (NIV)**

- V. God is \_\_\_\_\_ you so that you might experience your highest good and greatest joy.

“We love because he first loved us.”

**1 John 4:19 (NIV)**