Loving God and Loving Neighbor

Mark 12:28-34

Pastor Matt Ross ■ Grace Bible Church ■ November 22, 2026

"The natural man does not love God with all his heart, no matter how hard he tries. There has to be a radical change inside a person in order to do this. This is a work of the Spirit of God."
R. Kent Hughes, Preaching the Word: Mark

Central Truth: The greatest commandment and expression of worship is a whole-hearted love for God and love for others.

1. **Love God supremely (v. 28-30)**

2. **Love others sincerely (v. 31-33)**

3. **Trust Jesus ultimately (v. 34)**

Mark 12:28-34, ESV
28 And one of the scribes
came up and heard them
disputing with one another,
and seeing that he answered
them well, asked him, "Which
commandment is the most
important of all?" 29 Jesus
answered, "The most
important is, 'Hear, O Israel:
The Lord our God, the Lord is
one. 30 And you shall love the
Lord your God with all your
heart and with all your soul
and with all your mind and
with all your strength.' 31 The
second is this: 'You shall love
your neighbor as yourself.'
There is no other
commandment greater than
these." 32 And the scribe said
to him, "You are right,
Teacher. You have truly said
that he is one, and there is no
other besides him. 33 And to
love him with all the heart and
with all the understanding and
with all the strength, and to
love one's neighbor as
oneself, is much more than all
whole burnt offerings and
sacrifices." 34 And when Jesus
saw that he answered wisely,
he said to him, "You are not
far from the kingdom of
God." And after that no one
dared to ask him any more
questions.

Discussion Questions

These questions are for further study and application of today's text of Scripture. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. One of the best ways to grow as a disciple is by discussing these types of questions in a small group. Find a small group here: gracebiblecw.com/lifegroup or ask someone next to you if you can join their group!

1. Love God supremely

- Why do you think Jesus identified loving God as the greatest commandment? What makes this commandment foundational to everything else in the Christian life?

- Jesus says we are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. What does it look like practically to love God with every part of our lives?

2. Love others sincerely

- Why do you think Jesus connected loving our neighbor with loving God? What does our treatment of others reveal about our relationship with God?

- The scribe recognized that loving God and loving others was more important than burnt offerings and sacrifices (v. 33). What are some ways we can become so focused on religious activities that we neglect genuinely loving people?

- What is one practical way you could demonstrate Christlike love to someone in your family, workplace, church, or neighborhood this week?

3. Trust Jesus ultimately

- Jesus told the scribe that he was "not far from the kingdom of God." What do you think Jesus meant by this statement? What is the difference between understanding biblical truth and personally responding to it?

- What are some ways people can be close to Christianity, familiar with the Bible, and involved in religious activities without genuinely surrendering their lives to Christ?

- What does it look like to move beyond simply knowing about Jesus to genuinely trusting Him and following Him?