

THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD

Mark 12:28-34

²⁸ Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?"

²⁹ Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments 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, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'* This is the first commandment. ³¹ And the second, like it, is this: *'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.* There is no other commandment greater than these."

³² So the scribe said to Him, "Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He. ³³ And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."

³⁴ Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."

But after that no one dared question Him.

NKJV

Does anyone have the right to command or give orders to someone else?

parent/child
employer/employee
officer/soldier
police/citizen
God/man

To command: to direct authoritatively; to order

Every person who is commanded has two possible reactions:

1. Ignore the authority or the right of the one issuing the command.
2. Obey.

Why do children ignore the commandments of their parents?

Why do employees deliberately break rules of employment?

Why do soldiers not follow orders?

Why do citizens break the law?

Why do men ignore the commandments of God?

The "first mention" of command is Genesis 2:15-17; "to set down the rule."

Gen 2:15-17

¹⁵ Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

In Exodus 20:1-17, God spoke the Ten Commandments; "intended as a rule."

Jesus, here in Mark 12:28-34, summarizes the commandments of God to answer the question, "What is the first or foremost commandment?"

PROPOSITION: A man's relationship to God can be tested by his reaction to the five precepts Jesus gave to the scribe (Mark 12:29-31) which include every commandment given by God from Genesis through Revelation.

1. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart... **SINCERITY:**

love = agapeo in the moral, social sense

heart = thoughts / mind / center of life and intellect

- a) It was Pharaoh's heart that was hardened, Exodus 7-10
- b) Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts,...Matthew 15:19
- c) Blessed are the pure in heart:...Matthew 5:8
- d) Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also, Matthew 6:21

2. ... with all your soul... EMOTIONS:

soul = animal life, appetite, seat of the will, the you that will never die

- a) The LORD redeems the soul of His servants,...Psalm 34:22

The LORD redeems the soul of His servants,
And none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.

- b) Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul;...Acts 4:32

Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul;
neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they
had all things in common.

- c) And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul...Matthew 10:28

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear
Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

- d) What shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Matthew 16:26

For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?
Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

3. ...with all your mind... INTELLECT:

mind = thinking thought, intelligence

- a) Ignorance is no excuse. John 7:17

If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is
from God or *whether I speak on My own authority.*

- b) Don't let someone else do your thinking. Proverbs 23:7

For as he thinks in his heart, so *is* he.
"Eat and drink!" he says to you,
But his heart is not with you.

c) Be teachable. John 14:26

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

d) When taught, act. Luke 6:46

"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"

4. ...and with all your strength... ENERGY:

strength = ability, force

- a) Strength is an active word.
- b) Actions are expected, else the use of this word is meaningless.
- c) Our actions must be in the context of love.
- d) Expect results.

5. ...You shall love your neighbor as yourself... RESULT

The proof is in the result. 1 John 3:13-23

- a) Your neighbor is anyone in proximity to you.
- b) The command assumes you will love yourself.
- c) It is not to love neighbor instead of God, but as thyself.

d) The love of neighbor must be unqualified. Luke 10:29-37

²⁹ But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

³⁰ Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain *man* went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded *him*, and departed, leaving *him* half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. ³³ But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ So he went to *him* and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave *them* to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' ³⁶ So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?"

³⁷ And he said, "He who showed mercy on him."

Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

The idea is that we must love God more than we love ourselves, and that we must love our neighbor as much as we love ourselves.

The result is entrance into the Kingdom of God. Mark 12:34

Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."

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