

“O How Love I Thy Law!”
“The Law Of Love”
Matthew 22:34-40

Introduction:

1. I Appreciate Brother Art:
 - Bringing The Message Last Sunday Night:
 - As We Went On A Quick Trip:
 - To South Carolina:
 - To Keep Paige’s Car In Running Order!
 - So - Tonight:
 - We Are Going To Get Back:
 - To Our Sunday Night Series:
 - On The Law Of God!
 - And - Especially:
 - The Moral Law Of God:
 - As Revealed To Us In The Ten Commandments!
2. But - Before We Start Looking:
 - At The Ten Commandments:
 - In More Detail - We Have Been:
 - Exploring Some Of The Broader Truths:
 - About God’s Law!
 - And So - By Way Of Review:
 - We First Considered:
 - The Giver Of The Law!
 - The True & Living & Righteous God!
 - And - We Must Never Forget:
 - That God’s Law:
 - Always Reflects:
 - His Nature - And It:
 - Always Reveals:
 - His Will!
 - So - When You Look At God’s Law:
 - You Will Learn Something:
 - About God Himself!
 - Then - We Considered:
 - The Heart Of The Law!
 - That Is - How God Demands:
 - For His Law To Be Kept!
 - As A Law:
 - God Expects There To Be:
 - Obedience!
 - Just Like Any Law! But:
 - As **God’s** Law:
 - God Expects There To Be:
 - A Different Kind Of Obedience! An Obedience From The Heart!
 - So - It’s Not Just The **Letter** Of The Law That God Is After!
 - It’s The **Spirit** Of The Law As Well!
 - And - This Means That:
 - Noone Ever Has & Noone Ever Can:
 - Keep God’s Law:
 - Perfectly! And That Led Us To Look At:
 - The Power Of The Law!
 - And - God’s Intention For His Law!
 - God Did Not Design His Law:
 - To **Produce** Righteousness & Holiness!
 - In You & In Me!
 - Because - It **Can’t!**

- Instead - God Gave Us His Law:
 - To Confront Us & To Condemn Us:
 - In Our Sin!
 - And Then - To Prepare The Way:
 - For The Good News Of Jesus Christ!
3. So - If The Law Of God:
- Is “Weak Through The Flesh” (Romans 8:3) - Then:
 - What Purpose Does The Law Have:
 - For Those Who **Have**:
 - Been Redeemed From The Power Of The Law & Its Curse?
 - This Will Be Our Focus Tonight!
 - What Is The Purpose & The Relevance:
 - Of God’s Law:
 - For Us As Christians?
 - To Help Answer These Questions:
 - Please Turn Back In Your Bibles With Me:
 - To Matthew 22 - Where Jesus Was Undergoing An Inquisition By Some Of The Political & Religious Leaders There In Israel!
 - Most Of The Questions Asked Were Meant To Tempt Jesus & To Trick Jesus:
 - Into Saying Something That Was Not True & Not Right!
4. See This In:
- 22:15 - “Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk!”
 - Well - This Is The Same Reason For The Question We Come To In 22:34-36 - When - “The Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together. / Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, / Master, which is the great commandment in the law?”
 - Now - At First - This Seems Like Kind Of An Odd Question:
 - Because - The Pharisees Were Known:
 - For Their Scrupulous & Meticulous Methods:
 - Of Keeping All Of God’s Laws!
 - But - During That Time:
 - One Of The Great Theological Questions:
 - Was In Fact - What This Pharisee Asked Jesus!
 - And - Depending On:
 - What Religious Group You Belonged To:
 - Your Answer Would Be Different!
 - Some Believed:
 - The Law Of The Sabbath:
 - Was The Greatest Commandment!
 - Others Believed:
 - The Laws Of The Feasts:
 - Were The Greatest Commandments!
 - Still Others Believed:
 - The Law Of Circumcision:
 - Was The Greatest Commandment!
 - And To Keep The Greatest Commandment:
 - Would Satisfy The Demands Of All The Others:
 - So That A Person Could Be Right With God!
 - So - The Pharisee:
 - Was Trying To Trick Jesus:
 - Into Taking One Side Or Another!
5. But - As Always - Jesus Knew This Man’s Heart:
- But - Chose To Answer Him Anyways!
 - Which We See In 22:37-40 - “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. / This is the first and great commandment. / And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. / On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets!”
 - Now - The First Thing We See:

- From The Reply Of Jesus Is That:

1. ***Love Is – The Foremost Of The Commandments!***

- Jesus Did Not Reject The Premise Of The Pharisee:
 - That There Was A “First” Or “Great” Commandment!
 - No - Instead - He Replied:
 - That There Was! And Is!
 - So - Instead Of Trapping Jesus:
 - He Heard - From Jesus’ Own Mouth:
 - What His Law:
 - Was Really All About!
 - The Essence Of God’s Law Is Love!
 - He Said:
- The First Commandment:
 - And “Great Commandment” - Is:
 - 22:37 - “Thou Shalt Love The Lord Thy God With All Thy Heart, And With All Thy Soul, And With All Thy Mind!”
 - Now - If You Go To:
 - The Book Of Exodus:
 - Where The Ten Commandments Were First Given By God:
 - At Mt. Sinai - You Will Discover That This Is **Not** The First Commandment!
 - In Exodus 20 - The First Commandment:
 - Is Related To God:
 - But Says Nothing About:
 - Loving God!
 - Exodus 20:3 - “Thou shalt have no other gods before me!”
 - But Also - If You Go To:
 - The Book Of Deuteronomy:
 - Where The Ten Commandments Were Given Again By Moses:
 - Just Before The People Crossed Into The Promised Land - It’s **Not** The First Commandment There Either!
 - In Deuteronomy 5:7 - The First Commandment Is:
 - Once Again / Still - “Thou shalt have none other gods before me!”
 - So - Where Did Jesus Come Up With:
 - The “First” & “Great” Commandment:
 - To Love God?
 - This Commandment Doesn’t Come Until Deuteronomy 6:4-5 - Known To Jews As The “Great Shema” - “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: / And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might!”
 - Jesus Shows Us That:
 - There Is More To God’s Law:
 - Than Just The Ten Commandments!
 - Or Even The 613 Commandments That The Jews Find In The Rest Of The Old Testament!
 - But - Since - “God Is One!”
 - So Is His Law!
 - And All Of God’s Law Can Be Summed Up In This One!
 - “Thou Shalt Love The Lord Thy God!”
 - And - Love Him:
 - With All You Are - And:
 - With All You’ve Got!
 - As William Denton Once Wrote:
 - “The Precepts Of God Are Many, And Yet But One! Many Through Their Diversity And The Variety Of Forms Of Evil Which They Forbid; One, Since They Tend To One Result – Love To God And Man!”
 - What A Great & Profound Truth!
 - The Entire Law Of God:
 - Is About - Your Love:

- For God!
- But - Jesus Didn't Stop There!
- He Then Tells Us That There Is:
- The Second Commandment!
 - Which Is - 22:39 - "And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself!"
 - Once Again - If You Go Back To:
 - The Books Of Exodus Or Deuteronomy:
 - You Will Not Find These Words As The "Second" Of The "Ten" Commandments!
 - Instead - He Sums Up:
 - All Of The Commandments That Deal With:
 - Your Relationships With & Your Responsibilities To Others:
 - With The Same Principle!
 - Love!
 - And - Jesus Used A Command:
 - Found In The Old Testament Book:
 - Of Leviticus - 19:18 - Which Says - "Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD!"
- So - According To Jesus Himself:
 - Love Is - The Foremost Of The Commandments!
 - The First & Greatest Law:
 - Is To Love God!
 - And - The Second Law:
 - Is To Love Others!
 - And - Jesus Ends His Answer To The Pharisee:
 - In 22:40 - "On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets!"
 - Now - These Words Of Jesus:
 - Are Echoed All Throughout:
 - The Bible!
 - In The Old Testament:
 - In Joshua 22:5 - Joshua Tells The People:
 - "But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul!"
 - And - In The New Testament:
 - In James 2:8 - James Tells Us:
 - "If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well!"
 - So - If This Is All There Is:
 - To God's Law - Then:
 - What's The Point Of All The Others?
 - Some Might Even Think - "I Can Do That!" / "I Can Keep 2 Laws - Especially If They Are Laws About Love!"
 - Well - We Can't Get Too Excited:
 - About This Summary Of The Law:
 - From The Lord!
 - Because - It Does Nothing But Strengthen The Power Of the Law Over Us!
 - Because - Just Like All The Other Laws:
 - Noone **Does** Love In This Way!
 - And Noone **Can!**
 - The Only Way Jesus' Summary Of The Law Can Help You Is When:

2. ***Love Is – The Fruit Of The Commandments!***

- The Law Of God:
 - Is Put In A Whole New Light:
 - When You Turn To & Trust In:

- Jesus - As Your Savior From Sin!
- Because - Not Only Does He:
 - Redeem You:
 - From The Bondage Of Sin:
 - And The Curse Of The Law!
- He Also - Through The Holy Spirit:
 - Regenerates You:
 - And Gives You A New Life & A New Heart!
 - And - This Is All According To:
- The Promise Of God!
 - Which We Find In Jeremiah 31:31-34:
 - “Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: / 32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: / 33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. / 34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more!”
 - Did You Notice - In Verse 33:
 - What The Lord Will “Write” In The Hearts:
 - Of His People?
 - His Own Law!
 - Now - He’s Not Talking About:
 - The Letters Of The Law!
 - Though - It’s Not A Bad Idea To Memorize The Letters Of The Law!
 - He’s Talking About:
 - The Spirit Of The Law - And:
 - The Essence Of The Law:
 - Love! Love For God & Love For Others!
 - And We Know This - Because Of:
- The Provision Of God!
 - Where Does This Law & This Love:
 - Come From?
 - From The Holy Spirit Himself!
 - In Galatians 5 - Paul Describes:
 - The “Fruit Of The Spirit!”
 - And - In 5:22 - The First Element Of The Fruit Is What?
 - “Love!”
- The Love That God Requires:
 - Becomes The Fruit:
 - Of His Law:
 - When It Is Written In Your Heart:
 - As A Christian!
 - So - What Becomes:
 - Of The Rest Of God’s Law To Us?
 - The Letter Of His Law?
 - We Need To Also Remember That:

3. ***Love Is – The Fulfilment Of The Commandments!***

- This Is What We Find In Romans:
 - Romans 13:8 - “Owe no man any thing, but to love one another; for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. / For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. / Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law!”
 - When God’s Love Fills Your Heart:

- Now - You Can Love:
 - God & Others - In The Way The Law Demands!
 - 1 John 4:19 - “We love him, because he first loved us!”
- Love Will Fulfill All The Demands:
 - Owed To God!
 - Look At The First Table Of Commandments:
 - Exodus 20:1-11 - “And God spake all these words, saying, / 2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. / 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me. / 4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: / 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; / 6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. / 7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. / 8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. / 9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: / 10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: / 11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it!”
 - If You Love God From The Heart:
 - These Commandments Are Only The Beginning!
 - These Commandments Become A Guide!
 - Because True Love For God Knows No Bounds!
 - You Will Seek To Please God:
 - And Glorify Him:
 - In Everything You Do! Also:
- Love Will Fulfill All The Demands:
 - Owed To Others!
 - Look At The Second Table Of Commandments:
 - Exodus 20:12-17 - “Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. / 13 Thou shalt not kill. / 14 Thou shalt not commit adultery. / 15 Thou shalt not steal. / 16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. / 17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour’s!”
 - Of You Love God From The Heart:
 - Your Love Will Spill Over To Others!
 - Not Just Your Friends, But Even Your Enemies! As Jesus Tells Us!
 - Matthew 5:43-44 - “Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. / But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you!”
 - So - These Commandments Too:
 - Are Only The Beginning!
 - And These Commandments Become A Guide!
 - Because True Love For Others Knows No Bounds Either!
 - You Will Please God:
 - **By** Doing Good To / For Others!

Conclusion:

1. This Is The “Spirit” Of The Law:
 - That God Has Always Been After!
 - And - This Is The Work:
 - That The “Holy Spirit” Does:
 - In The Heart Of Every True Christian!
2. So - The Law Of God:
 - Is Still There - As A Guide **For** You:
 - And - As A Seed **In** You:
 - So That - You Can Bear The Fruit Of The Law Which Is The Very Beginning Of The Fruit Of The Spirit!

- Love!
- So Much So - That:
 - When You Live Your Life:
 - According To The Law Of Love:
 - Its As If There Is No Law At All!
- 3. So - Look At God's Law In This Way!
 - You Are No Longer Under:
 - The Crushing Weight Of Its Demands!
 - Because It Has Been Written On Your Heart:
 - If You Are A Christian!
 - It Is The Law Of Love!
 - Which Will Help You:
 - Live For & Please & Glorify God:
 - Today!

- * Do You See That The Nature Of God's Law Is Love?
- * Have You Received Forgiveness In Jesus For Breaking God's Law Of Love?
- * Are You Keeping God's Law Out Of Love?

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