

The Great Commandment: The Premises of Love

1. **Four spheres of human life: heart (affections), soul (personality), mind (intellect), and strength (resources)**

Mark 12:30 *...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.*

2. **Loving God on God's terms**

1 John 2:15-17 *Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷ The world is passing away and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God continues to live forever.*

a. Love's object

b. Loves source

c. Love's fruit

3. **Five premises of biblical love**

- a. **Love requires the pursuit of obedience** (John 14:15-23)

John 14:15-23 *If you love me, you will keep my commandments....*

²¹*Whoever has my commandments and keeps them loves me....*²³ *Whoever loves me will keep my word. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.*

b. **Love compels gratitude** (Luke 7:41-47)

Luke 7:41-47 *Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more? ⁴³ Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said. ⁴⁴ Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. ⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."*

c. **Love insists on loyalty to the truth**

1 Corinthians 13:6 *Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.*

i. Three truths about Jesus that offends humanists:

1. His deity
2. His exclusivity
3. His sovereignty

d. **Love includes passionate desire**

Song of Songs 5:8 *Young women of Jerusalem, I charge you, if you find my love, tell him that I am lovesick.*

e. **Love results in sacrificial service**

1 Thessalonians 1:3 *We recall, in the presence of our God and Father, your work produced by faith, your labor motivated by love...*