

“Learning to Love God: The Greatest Commandment”

Pine Haven Christian Assembly - 2021

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Introduction

- A. Early “romances,” flower petals, and the magic 8-ball.
- B. Meeting someone new: How could you get them to like you?
- C. How could you get someone to LOVE you?

I. The Greatest Commandment is to _____ God.

- A. Many commandments in the Bible: _____ positive and _____ negative.
- B. The least important (Deut. 22:6).
- C. The greatest commandment: God commands us to love Him (e.g., Mark 12:30).
- D. How can we be *commanded* to love?
 The command to love calls us to a _____, not to a _____.

Mark 12:30	Luke 10:27	Matt 22:37	Deut. 6:5
“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 .”	“... You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind , and your neighbor as yourself.”	“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart with all your soul and with all your mind .”	“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might .”

- E. Why the differences between Deuteronomy 6 and the Gospels?

II. WHY Should We Want to Love God More?

(Note the sessions scheduled this week that will address this question.)

- A. Consider God's _____.
- “An Introduction to God” by Mark Mangano on Monday.
 - “In the Image of God: The True You” by Mark Mangano on Tuesday.
 - “Living in the Image of God” by Roberta Mangano on Tuesday.
- B. Consider God's _____.
- “An Introduction to God” by Mark Mangano on Monday.
 - “Truth about God’s Goodness” by Zach Breitenbach on Tuesday.
- C. Consider God's _____.
- “The Truth of Scripture” by Rich Knopp on Wednesday.
 - “Truth in Biblical Prophecies” by Mark Mangano on Wednesday.
 - “The Truth of Jesus’ Resurrection” by Zach Breitenbach on Wednesday.
- D. Consider God's _____.
- “Truth and Tolerance” by Zach Breitenbach on Monday.
 - “Dealing with Doubts about what is True” by Rich Knopp on Thursday.

III. HOW Can We Share God’s Love With Others?

- “Strategies for Sharing Truth with Unbelievers” by Zach Breitenbach on Thursday.
- “Living a Biblical Worldview: Lessons from Old Testament Wisdom” by Mark Mangano.

Discussion and Reflection Questions Pinehaven 2021

“Learning to Love God: The Greatest Commandment” by Rich Knopp

1. Do you think you can really *learn* to love someone? Have you ever experienced this? Explain.
2. Try to think of someone who did not like you very much (or a person you did not like very much) but later you became pretty good friends. What changed? What did they do (or you do) that made the difference?
3. Try to give a one-sentence definition for “love.” What is it? How does the meaning change, if it does, when you love a dog, or love a pair of jeans, or love a friend, or love a boyfriend or girlfriend? Is loving God different from loving a very good friend? Explain.
4. What are some *similarities* between learning to love *God* and learning to love other *people*? What are some *differences*?
5. What do you think it means to love God with your (1) heart? (2) soul? (3) strength? (4) mind? What does each of these mean to you? How could each of these be specifically applied in your life?
6. What Bible passage in this lesson stands out as especially important or challenging to you? Explain why you identify this passage.
7. Specifically pray that you will use this week to grow in your love for God. Personally think about what that might involve.