

# Greatest Commandment(s)

Matthew 22

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GROWING IN CHRIST TO GROW OTHERS



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## 4 Temptations

- **Political – 22:15-22**
  - “render unto Caesar”
- **Theological – 22:23-33**
  - “whose wife of the seven will she be?”
- **Legal 22:34-40**
  - “which is the great commandment in the Law?”
- **Christological – 22:41-46**
  - “If David then calls Him ‘Lord’”

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### Setting Priorities

- 613 Laws – 248 positive / 365 negative
- Decalogue – The Ten Commandments
- Micah 6:8
- Great Commandment
  - Great Shema – Deuteronomy 6:5
  - Second “same as first” – Leviticus 19:18, 34

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**"He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you  
But to do justly,  
To love mercy, And  
to walk humbly with your God?"  
Micah 6:8 NKJV**

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### The Great Shema

<p><b>שמע ישראל</b> יהוה אלהינו יהוה אחד: ואהבת את יהוה אלהיך בכל לבבך ובכל נפשך ובכל מאדך:</p>	<p><b>“Hear, O Israel!</b> The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”</p>
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34 But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together.

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35 One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him,  
36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"

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Pharisees believed that the **3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment** was the 'greatest' (Do not take the name of the LORD God in vain) - If you could keep your speech, you could control all other aspects of your spiritual life.

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37 And He said to him, " 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'

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38 This is the great and foremost commandment.

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### Love the LORD

- Heart – devotion, passion
- Soul – mind - will - emotion
- Strength – being, character, ability
  - LXX – “power”
  - “mind”
  - “strength”
- Complete being – nothing less!



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## Mezuzah

- Mounted on the doorpost
- Right-hand side, shoulder height
- Tilted toward opening door
- $\psi$  – first letter of Shema
- Containing Dt. 6:5 scroll
- Daily reminder of the Great Shema



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39 The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

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40 On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

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## Love your neighbor



- Leviticus 19:18
- Love who you know
- What would you want to learn that you would not want to share?
- Our desire to grow should be matched by our desire to see growth!

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## Second “same as first”

command	1st	2nd
1st	Priority	Result
2nd	Purpose	Response
	Proof	Reality

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39 The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

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## Love the stranger



- Leviticus 19:34
- God so loved...
- Golden Rule – *“In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”* Matt 7:12
- Our chance to reflect God’s love to us upon others

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## GROWING IN CHRIST TO GROW OTHERS




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## Great Commandment Great Commission

- Love the Lord - worship
- Love the neighbor - growth
- Love the stranger - Gospel
- What is the measure of our love?
- What is the action of your love?

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“Love others in a way that causes you to meet their needs, as readily, as eagerly, as anxiously, as completely as you meet your own needs.” John MacArthur

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