

## THE FIRST COMMAND OF ALL

Mk 12:28-34; Matt 22: 34-40

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. Love for God & man is the first command in the Bible?
  - 1. What about obedience to the alien and work and worship to the Christian?
  - 2. Possible to do these things without love, so love must come first. It produces fruit of righteousness
- B. There are three Greek words translated Love in the N. T. T.
  - 1. THELO - like or desire Mk 12:38
  - 2. PHILEO - the love of emotion or affection; never used in a command to love God: see Jhn 20:2
  - 3. AGAPAO - the love of devotion: a love that can be developed by command 1Cor 13 and Text
    - a. It does not have to have love in return for love
    - b. It is not drawn out by the excellence or its object
    - c. It leads the way by loving the unlovable

### DISCUSSION:

#### I. SOME MISCONCEPTIONS OF BIBLE LOVE

- A. Some think love nullifies or takes place of obedience
  - 1. Joseph Fletcher, professor of Ethics at Cambridge Episcopal Theological School, favors amending the Ten commandments to read: "Thou shalt not covet; kill; commit adultery ordinarily." (Death of a Nation p.96)
    - a. He says "mercy killing" is all right
    - b. Fornication: by mental patients justify abortion
    - c. "Free sex" if two people love each other
  - 2. Say if we love God, He overlooks lack of obedience. This how we show love for Him Jhn 14:15; 1Jhn 2:5
- B. Some think that love will not allow chastisement
  - 1. Parents, elders, preachers sometimes accused of lacking love because they reprove and rebuke
  - 2. True love necessitates chastisement
    - a. This is one way to show love Heb 12:6
    - b. Parents chasten because of love Prov 13: 24
  - 3. Reprove, rebuke, exhort 2Tim 4:1-3; but speak in love Eph 4:15
  - 4. Flatterer & compromiser are ones lacking in love

#### II. TWO PRIMARY OBJECTS OF OUR LOVE

- A. Deity - encompasses God, Christ, & Holy Spirit
  - 1. God Matt. 22: 37 (How do I test. this love)
    - a. Listen to loved ones: listen to God
    - b. We talk to loved ones: do we talk to God?
  - 2. Jesus 1Cor 16:22 (How do I test this love)
    - a. With those we love; Assembly Matt 18:20
    - b. "Keep my commandments" Jhn 14:15

- c. Want loved ones with us: Is Jesus with us?
- 3. Holy Spirit - the Comforter (test this love)
  - a. Will not speak against Mk 3:29
  - b. Revealer of all truth Jhn 16:13,14
- B. Mankind -- encompasses brethren, neighbors, enemies
  - 1. The brethren Jhn 13:34,35 (Test = "by this")
    - a. Love causes to forgive Eph 4: 32
    - b. Love helps in time of need Jas 2:14-17
    - c. Can't love God and hate brother 1Jhn 4:20, 21
    - d. Must continue Heb 13:1; be genuine 1Pet 1:22
  - 2. Neighbor Matt 22:39 (How can I test this love)
    - a. Good Samaritan "WHO" Lk 10:29 application v.37
    - b. Love worketh no ill to his neighbor Rom 13:10
    - c. No chore to love the whole world; my real problem is my neighbor next door.
    - d. If we love; we seek his benefit spiritual & physical
  - 3. Enemies Matt 5:44 (How do I test this love)
    - a. Pray for; do good; win to Christ Rom 12:20,21
    - b. Most difficult, but most be done

#### III. LOVE CAN BE MISPLACED

- A. Many are in love with themselves 2Tim 3:2
  - 1. Selfish, conceited and self-pleasing
  - 2. Love too much to deny & follow Christ Matt 16:24
- B. Lovers of pleasure 2Tim 3:4
  - 1. Excessive or sinful pleasures interfere with work
  - 2. Millions turned back on God because of pleasure
  - 3. We are a pleasure oriented society Note Lk 8:14
- C. Love of money 1Tim 6:10
  - 1. Rich ruler turned away Matt 19:16-22
  - 2. Rich fool thought all was well Lk 2:16-21
  - 3. Caused Ananias & Sapphira to lie Acts 5:1-11
  - 4. Cause murder, divorce, perjury, robbery, war, etc
- D. Love of the world 2Tim 4:10; 1Jhn 2:15-17
- E. Love of preeminence 3Jhn 9 (Pharisees Matt 23:6)
- F. Love the praises of men Jhn 12:42; Gal 1:10

### CONCLUSION:

- A. Why is love the greatest commandment?
  - 1. On these two hang all law & prophets Matt 22:40
    - a. First four governs man's relationship to God
    - b. Last six governs man's relationship to man
  - 2. Love precedes all scriptural obedience
- B. Love is permanent 1Cor 13:13
- C. It is universal Jhn 13:35 All can see it and understand
- D. All need to cultivate this "fruit of spirit" every day
- E. It must be cultivated and increased - it does not just happen by itself.