

Expectations

Ephesians 3:20-21

Which Commandment is the Most Important of All?

[Mark 12:28-34]

A. Prologue: The Question [Mark 12:28]

Which commandment is the most important of all?
- Scribe

B. The Answer [Mark 12:29-33]

[1] God's Love for His People [29]

[2] Our Love for God [30]

[a] Heart

[b] Soul

[c] Mind

[d] Strength

[3] Our Love for Our Neighbor [31]

C. Epilogue: The Affirmation [Mark 12:34]

You are not far from the kingdom of God. - Jesus

Ephesians 3:20-21 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Mark 12:28-34 . . . one of the scribes [expert in the law] came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well [cleverly], asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" [Matthew 22:34-40, 46; Luke 10:25-28]

²⁹ Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, [Deuteronomy 6:4-5] the Lord is one. [Schema - Jewish proclamation of their relationship with God and the unity of God] [Romans 3:30; 1 Corinthians 8:4-6; Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 1:17; James 2:19, 4:12; Jude 1:25]

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.' ³¹ The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' [1 John 4:19-21; Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 19:19]; There is no other commandment greater than these." [Matthew 22:33]

³² And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, [Luke 2:47; see also 12:29b] and there is no other besides him. [Deuteronomy 4:35] ³³ And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, [Deuteronomy 4:5-6, Luke 2:47, Colossians 1:9, 2:2] is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." [expands conversation] 1 Samuel 15:22, Hosea 6:6, Micah 6:6-6:8, Matthew 9:13; Psalm 40:6, Hebrews 10:6].

³⁴ And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely [cleverly], he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." [Submission to "God's rule, values, and purpose in the world"] And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions. [Luke 20:40; Matthew 22:45]

Study Questions/Prayer

- [1] Read Mark 12:30. Why does Jesus emphasize loving God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength as the most important commandment?
- [2] Read Mark 12:31. How does the commandment to love your neighbor as yourself complement the commandment to love God?
- [3] How can we apply the principles of these two greatest commandments in our daily lives to reflect our faith and commitment to God and others? Use Hosea 6:6, Micah 6:8, Hebrews 10:5-7 [Psalm 40:6-8] to develop your response.
- [4] Pray for God to guide you to "love your neighbor as yourself", reflecting His love in your actions and words, and to give you strength to live out these commandments daily, as you draw closer to God's heart.

Hendiatetris
meaning
"all you are and do."