



**Nothing New**





Amidst the questioning attacks of the religious leaders, Jesus has a rare interaction with a scribe who asks a genuine question. Mark records this interaction in order to help us see that Jesus is the embodiment of God's eternal, loving, redemptive plan. And that those who get it, unreservedly love God and others.



**Context:**



## **Context:**

- **A genuine question**



## Context:

- A genuine question
  - **“Which commandment is the most important?”**



## Context:

- A genuine question
  - “Which commandment is the most important?”
    - **How would you summarize all the commands?**



## Context:

- A genuine question
  - “Which commandment is the most important?”
    - How would you summarize all the commands?
    - **What does God really want from us?**



## Context:

- A genuine question
- **Jesus gives orthodox answer**





## Context:

- A genuine question
- Jesus gives orthodox answer
- **Answer religious leaders would have affirmed**



## Context:

- A genuine question
- Jesus gives orthodox answer
- Answer religious leaders would have affirmed
- **Answer which would have surprised the religious leaders**



## Mark 12:28-34

<sup>28</sup> And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?”

<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup> 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.’ <sup>31</sup> The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” <sup>32</sup> And



## Mark 12:28-34

the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. <sup>33</sup> 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, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” <sup>34</sup> And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.



# The Scribe's Question:



The Scribe's Question: **“Which commandment is the most important...?”**



The Scribe's Question: "Which commandment is the most important...?"

**Jesus' Answer...**



The Scribe's Question: "Which commandment is the most important...?"

Jesus' Answer...

**1. Wholeheartedly loving God is it.**





## Mark 12:28-30

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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.’



# **1. Wholeheartedly loving God is it.**

**All God has ever wanted is for us to love Him.**



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**Our loving God is trusting Him.**



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All God has ever wanted is for us to love Him.

Our loving God is trusting Him.

**Our loving, trusting God, leads us to joyfully obey Him.**



**1. Wholeheartedly loving God is it.**

**Jesus is the embodiment of God's plan.**



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Jesus is the embodiment of God's plan. **Always has been.**



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**1<sup>st</sup> prophecy about Jesus...**



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## Genesis 3:15

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."





Old Testament folks who **loved** God:



Old Testament folks who **loved** God: **(those living before Jesus' death and resurrection)**



**Old Testament folks who **loved** God: (those living before Jesus' death and resurrection)**

- **Trusted God**



## Old Testament folks who **loved** God: (those living before Jesus' death and resurrection)

- Trusted God
  - **Recognized they needed a Savior (were looking forward)**



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    - **Sacrificial system**



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      - **Pointed to their sin**



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      - **Pointed to their need for someone to be basis of their forgiveness**



## Old Testament folks who **loved** God: (those living before Jesus' death and resurrection)

- Trusted God
  - Recognized they needed a Savior (were looking forward)
    - Sacrificial system
      - Pointed to their sin
      - Pointed to their need for someone to be basis of their forgiveness
      - **Trusted God **would** send**  
**THE SACRIFICE**





## Old Testament folks who **loved** God: (those living before Jesus' death and resurrection)

- Trusted God
- **Obedience flowed from their love of God**



**New Testament folks who **love** God:**



New Testament folks who **love** God: **(those living after Jesus' death and resurrection)**



**New Testament folks who **love** God: (those living after Jesus' death and resurrection)**

- **Trust God**



## New Testament folks who **love** God: (those living after Jesus' death and resurrection)

- Trust God
  - **Recognize they need a Savior (are looking back)**



## New Testament folks who **love** God: (those living after Jesus' death and resurrection)

- Trust God
  - Recognize they need a Savior (are looking back)
    - **Realize**



## New Testament folks who **love** God: (those living after Jesus' death and resurrection)

- Trust God
  - Recognize they need a Savior (are looking back)
    - Realize
      - **Are sinners**



## New Testament folks who **love** God: (those living after Jesus' death and resurrection)

- Trust God
  - Recognize they need a Savior (are looking back)
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      - Are sinners
      - **Need someone to be basis of our forgiveness**





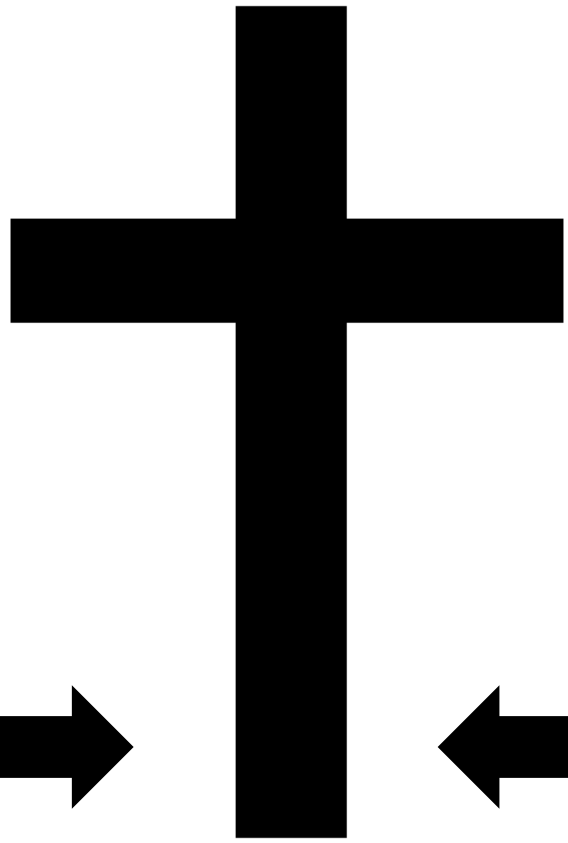
## New Testament folks who **love** God: (those living after Jesus' death and resurrection)

- Trust God
  - Recognize they need a Savior (are looking back)
    - Realize
      - Are sinners
      - Need someone to be basis of our forgiveness
      - **Trust God **did** send THE SACRIFICE**

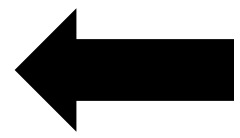
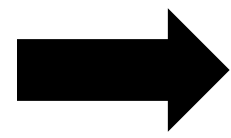


## New Testament folks who **love** God: (those living after Jesus' death and resurrection)

- Trust God
- **Obedience flows from our love of God**



**Old  
Testament  
Faithful**



**New  
Testament  
Faithful**



1. Wholeheartedly loving God is it.
- 2. Wholeheartedly loving God inevitably leads to loving others.**



## Mark 12:28-31

<sup>28</sup> And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?”

<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup> 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.’ <sup>31</sup> The second is this: **‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’** There is no other commandment greater than these.”



## **1 John 3:16-18**

<sup>16</sup> By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. <sup>17</sup> But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? <sup>18</sup> Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.



## 1 John 4:7-12

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.



## **2. Wholeheartedly loving God inevitably leads to loving others.**

**Loving God**





# **2. Wholeheartedly loving God inevitably leads to loving others.**

**Loving God            Loving Others**



## Mark 12:31

<sup>31</sup> The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”



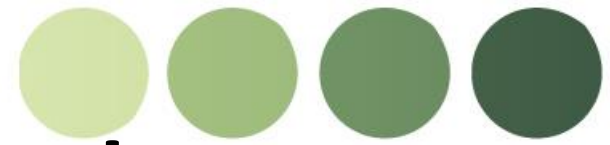
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## **2. Wholeheartedly loving God inevitably leads to loving others.**

**Loving God + Loving self**



# **2. Wholeheartedly loving God inevitably leads to loving others.**

Loving God + Loving self **—————>** **Loving others**



**Loving God**



Being Loved By God → **Loving God**





Being Loved By God → **Loving God** → Loving self



Being Loved → **Loving God** → Loving self → Loving  
by God others



**Healthy loving self**



Healthy loving self

**Unhealthy loving self**



**Healthy loving self:**



**Healthy loving self:**

**Loving ourselves healthily is rooted, grounded,  
founded in our experience of the infinite love God  
has for us.**



## **Healthy loving self:**

Loving ourselves healthily is rooted, grounded, founded in our experience of the infinite love God has for us.

## **From God we receive love:**



## Healthy loving self:

Loving ourselves healthily is rooted, grounded, founded in our experience of the infinite love God has for us.

From God we receive love:

- **Forgiveness**





## Healthy loving self:

Loving ourselves healthily is rooted, grounded, founded in our experience of the infinite love God has for us.

From God we receive love:

- Forgiveness
- **Security**



## Healthy loving self:

Loving ourselves healthily is rooted, grounded, founded in our experience of the infinite love God has for us.

From God we receive love:

- Forgiveness
- Security
- **Significance**



## Healthy loving self:

Loving ourselves healthily is rooted, grounded, founded in our experience of the infinite love God has for us.

From God we receive love:

- Forgiveness
- Security
- Significance
- **Purpose**



**Healthy loving self:**

**To help us experience His love God gives us:**



## Healthy loving self:

To help us experience His love God gives us:

- **Parents**



## Healthy loving self:

To help us experience His love God gives us:

- Parents
- **Friends and church family**



## Healthy loving self:

To help us experience His love God gives us:

- Parents
- Friends and church family
- **Pastors, SS teachers, youth leaders**



## Healthy loving self:

To help us experience His love God gives us:

- Parents
- Friends and church family
- Pastors, SS teachers, youth leaders
- **Spouses**





## Healthy loving self:

To help us experience His love God gives us:

- Parents
- Friends and church family
- Pastors, SS teachers, youth leaders
- Spouses
- **Kids**



## **Healthy loving self:**

To help us experience His love God gives us:

- Parents
- Friends and church family
- Pastors, SS teachers, youth leaders
- Spouses
- Kids

**God Himself is ultimate source of our experience of His love.**



**Expressions of healthy loving self:**



## Expressions of healthy loving self:

Being Loved by God **➡** Loving God **➡** Loving Self



## **Expressions of healthy loving self:**

- **Love God**



## Expressions of healthy loving self:

- Love God
  - **Deep affection for Him**



## Expressions of healthy loving self:

- Love God
  - Deep affection for Him
  - **Think about Him**



## Expressions of healthy loving self:

- Love God
  - Deep affection for Him
  - Think about Him
  - **Pursue deeper relationship with Him**





## Expressions of healthy loving self:

- Love God
- **Love others**



## Expressions of healthy loving self:

- Love God
- Love others
  - **Think extensively about others**



## Expressions of healthy loving self:

- Love God
- Love others
  - Think extensively about others
  - **Talk considerably with others**



## Expressions of healthy loving self:

- Love God
- Love others
  - Think extensively about others
  - Talk considerably with others
  - **Ask a lot of questions about them**



## Expressions of healthy loving self:

- Love God
- Love others
  - Think extensively about others
  - Talk considerably with others
  - Ask a lot of questions about them
  - **Happily use resources for others (time, money, gifts)**



## Expressions of healthy loving self:

- Love God
- Love others
  - Think extensively about others
  - Talk considerably with others
  - Ask a lot of questions about them
  - Happily use resources for others (time, money, gifts)
  - **Initiate relationships with others**



## Expressions of healthy loving self:

- Love God
- Love others
  - Think extensively about others
  - Talk considerably with others
  - Ask a lot of questions about them
  - Happily use resources for others (time, money, gifts)
  - Initiate relationships with others
  - **Almost never offended**



## Expressions of healthy loving self:

- Love God
- Love others
  - Think extensively about others
  - Talk considerably with others
  - Ask a lot of questions about them
  - Happily use resources for others (time, money, gifts)
  - Initiate relationships with others
  - Almost never offended
  - **Accept criticism well**





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  - **Forgiving others easily**



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  - Forgiving others easily
  - **Identity grounded in being loved by God**



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- Love God
- **Love others**
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  - Happily use resources for others (time, money, gifts)
  - Initiate relationships with others
  - Almost never offended
  - Accept criticism well
  - Forgiving others easily
  - Identity grounded in being loved by God
  - **Devoted to helping others experience God's love (helping them find their identity in God's love)**



**Unhealthy expressions of loving self:**



## Unhealthy expressions of loving self:

Being Loved by God **➡** Loving God **➡** Loving Self



## Unhealthy expressions of loving self:

~~Being Loved by God~~ → **Loving God** → Loving Self



## Unhealthy expressions of loving self:

~~Being Loved by God~~ → ~~Loving God~~ → Loving Self



## **Unhealthy expressions of loving self:**

- **View God**





## Unhealthy expressions of loving self:

- View God
  - **Not finding significance and security in God's love**



## Unhealthy expressions of loving self:

- View God
  - Not finding significance and security in God's love
  - **Pursuing significance and security from other people**



## Unhealthy expressions of loving self:

- View God
- **View others**



## Unhealthy expressions of loving self:

- View God
- View others
  - **Think predominately about self**



## Unhealthy expressions of loving self:

- View God
- View others
  - Think predominately about self
  - **Talk predominately about self**



## Unhealthy expressions of loving self:

- View God
- View others
  - Think predominately about self
  - Talk predominately about self
  - **Ask little about others**



## Unhealthy expressions of loving self:

- View God
- View others
  - Think predominately about self
  - Talk predominately about self
  - Ask little about others
  - **Uses resources for self (time, money, gifts)**



## Unhealthy expressions of loving self:

- View God
- View others
  - Think predominately about self
  - Talk predominately about self
  - Ask little about others
  - Uses resources for self (time, money, gifts)
  - **Self-promoter or withdrawn**





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- View God
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  - Talk predominately about self
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  - Self-promoter or withdrawn
  - **Easily take offense**



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  - Easily take offense
  - **Don't accept criticism well**



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  - Don't accept criticism well
  - **Hold grudges**



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  - **Identity determined by other people**



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  - Hold grudges
  - Identity determined by other people
  - **Devoted to finding security from other people**



**To love others, we must love ourselves, to truly, healthily love ourselves, we must be experiencing God's limitless love.**



To love others, we must love ourselves, to truly, healthily love ourselves, we must be experiencing God's limitless love.

**We are all in process.**



**The scribe was in process...**





## Mark 12:28-34

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<sup>34</sup> And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, **“You are not far from the kingdom of God.”** And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.



**The scribe was in process...but had not yet embraced Jesus.**



The scribe was in process...but had not yet embraced Jesus.

**We are in process...but we have embraced Jesus.**



# Takeaways:



## **Takeaways:**

- **Thank God for the people He has used to help you experience His love.**



## Takeaways:

- Thank God for the people He has used to help you experience His love.
- **Ask God to help us grow in our understanding and experience of His infinite love.**



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- Thank God for the people He has used to help you experience His love.
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- **Ask God to help us not blame Him for the weaknesses we see in others.**



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- Ask God to help us not blame Him for the weaknesses we see in others.
- **Ask God to not let the weaknesses others see in me prevent them from experiencing His love.**





# Takeaways:

- Thank God for the people He has used to help you experience His love.
- Ask God to help us grow in our understanding and experience of His infinite love.
- Ask God to help us not blame Him for the weaknesses we see in others.
- Ask God to not let the weaknesses others see in me prevent them from experiencing His love.
- **Ask God to help us enthusiastically love others from the love we have received from Him.**