

50 Commands of Christ - 11 - (#40-41)

40. Love the Lord—*Matthew 22:37-38*

Is this a new command of Christ? *Deuteronomy 6:5*

When you hear this command to “love God,” do you think of God as: a) a benevolent old uncle, b) a mighty king on a throne surrounded by angels, c) “I am who I am,” d) an angry and jealous God, e) a God who has forgiven and forgotten my sins, f) a God who created me and loves me, g) something else?

How can you show your love for God? *John 14:15*

How do you show your father, mother, brother, or friend your love for them?

Valentine’s Day is coming soon. Is this a good opportunity to show a wife or girlfriend your love?

41. Love your neighbor—*Matthew 22:39*

Is this a new command of Christ? *Leviticus 19:18*

When Jesus was asked by a Jewish expert in the law, “who is my neighbor?” which well-known parable did he tell? *Luke 10 29-37*

What kind of love did Jesus require you have for your neighbor?

What does it really mean to love your neighbor as yourself?

Which is it easiest and which hardest to love: a) God, b) a spouse or son or sibling, c) a friend from church, d) a neutral neighbor or passerby, e) needy person on the street or a missions trip, f) the person who cut you off in traffic or shot down your idea at work, or g) an enemy (of you, of the church, of the USA)?

Why do you think we like to study and debate what the Bible means, yet often resist changing our lives based on what it says and what we really know it means?

How important did Jesus say these two commands were?

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40. Love the Lord

Matthew 22:37-38 - ³⁷ Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.

Deuteronomy 6:5 - Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

How can you show your love for God?

Getting ahead of ourselves, see command #46 in which Jesus says, “If you love me, you will obey what I command.”—*John 14:15*

How do you show your father, mother, brother, or friend your love for them?

When I go to an early morning Bible study and my wife isn't yet up, the thing I miss most and that I can't wait to do when I get back home is hug my wife and tell her I love her. I tell my wife at least two or three times a day that I love her (not necessarily those words—it might be praise for something she did or just thanking her for being such a great wife). Shouldn't we be telling God that we love him just as often? In fact, more so?

41. Love your neighbor

Matthew 22:39 - And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

Leviticus 19:18 - Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.

Which is it easiest and which hardest to love: a) God, b) a spouse or son or sibling, c) a friend from church, d) a neutral neighbor or passerby, e) needy person on the street or a missions trip, f) the person who cut you off in traffic or shot down your idea at work, or g) an enemy?

Think about loving and personally providing care for an Islamic terrorist who would like to kill as many American Christians as possible.

On a missions trip, it's easy to love and care for the cute 10-year-old girl who just wants to be hugged and is willing to help out in any way she can. But what about the abusive father who takes whatever money is earned by the family and spends it getting drunk?