

Personal/ Small Group Sermon Study

Does Jesus Really Matter?

Week of June 14, 2020 A.D.

Christianity is not a religion. Christianity is a personal relationship with God through faith in His Son Jesus the Christ. Let's talk about that in this week's study.

Read Matthew 22:34 – 40

A **commandment** is defined as: "an authoritative command or order; a mandate; a precept (which means "a rule of moral conduct") specifically one of the ten commandments"

1. How do you react when another person looks you in the eye and specifically states that they are commanding you (a) to do a specific act, in a specific way, at a specific time? or (b) to stop doing a particular act which you want to do? Please explain the reasons for your answers.
2. How often are the words "command" and/or "commandment" (a) used or spoken by you? (b) spoken by others with whom you are having a discussion or conversation? Please explain what your answers to these two questions reveal about the American culture's attitude toward authority.
3. Can any culture/society/civilization survive without written mandates or commands which are (a) fairly applied to all of its people? and (b) intended to be mutually beneficial to all of its people? Please explain your answers.
4. Does God have the (a) right? and (b) authority to give commandments for every human being to obey? What happens to the civilizations and/or individuals who choose not to obey the commandments of God? Please explain the reasoning for and/or give illustrations to support your answers.
5. In your opinion, does God exist? If God does exist; (a) does God love every person? (b) does God love every person the same? and (c) does God have the right to command you to love Him? Please explain your answers.

6. Please define, explain, and give examples of what it means to love God with all of (a) your heart, (b) your soul, and (c) your mind.

7. In your opinion, do all “Christians” earnestly want to obey the commands of verse 37? If your answer is “yes”, please explain how they do so? If your answer is “no”, please explain (a) why not and (b) how their disobedience affects their relationship with God.

8. If you were a Christian, how seriously would you seek to obey the commands of verse 37? Include in your answer the specific behavior in which you would engage to show your obedience to those commands and how often you would do so.

9. Do you have a determined and consistent pattern of behavior by which you strive to live a life which is pleasing to (a) your parents, (b) your spouse and children, (c) your friends, and (d) God? If not, why not? If so, please state the “determined and consistent pattern” which you follow for each of the relationships in (a) through (d).

10. Read verse 39. Who is your “neighbor”? Please describe how you routinely show that you do “love your neighbor”?

11. In your opinion, please state how a sincere commitment to the following disciplines might enable you or any Christian to cultivate and sustain increasing love for God and/or “your neighbor”: (a) Sunday church attendance; (b) a weekly small group Bible study; (c) a daily time for personal prayer and Bible study; (d) serving other Christians; and (e) telling your non-believing friends about the love of Christ.

Read Matthew 7:21 – 23

12. What does Jesus mean when He says, “I never knew you”? What is the meaning of these verses? Please explain your answers.

Consider: The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. “You think about that.” Amen.