

# Personal/Small Group Sermon Study

Week of September 24, 2023 A.D.

## Love the Lord Your God with ALL of Your Heart

God commands us to love Him with all of our heart, with all of our soul, and with all of our mind. Does He really mean that? Is it even possible to do? We will investigate those questions in this week's lesson.

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

### Read Exodus 20:1 - 3

1. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "A god is any person, object, idea, or image which becomes the primary focus of a person's time, efforts, thoughts, resources, and/or emotions."
2. Do you have any gods besides the God of the Bible? If so, what or who are they? If not, what evidence can you offer to support your statement that you have "no other gods before" the God of the Bible?

### Read Matthew 22:34 - 38

3. Please explain what Jesus means when he says to love the Lord your God with: (a) all your heart; (b) all your soul and (c) all your mind.
4. Does God have the right to give this command to you and to all people? Does God have the right to expect you and all people to seek to live in obedience to this command? If God does not have that right, why not? Are you willing to obey this command? If so, what evidence can you offer to demonstrate that you are seeking to obey this command?

### Read John 14:23 - 24

5. Can a person love Jesus without making a commitment to (a) live a life which is pleasing to Jesus? and (b) learn and to obey the teachings of Jesus as set forth in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible?
6. Does the Holy Spirit live within every believer/child of God? Does the Holy Spirit live within a person who does not (a) make a genuine and sincere effort to know the teachings of Jesus? and (b) make a genuine and sincere effort to obey the teaching of Jesus?

### Read Proverbs 3:1 - 6

7. What does it mean to “win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man”? Does God want you and every person to “win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man”? If not, why not? If so, how are these goals to be pursued and/or accomplished?
8. Please describe the habits and the lifestyle of a person who obeys verse 5. Now, please refer to verse 6. Please describe (a) how you are currently making the efforts to acknowledge God and Christ in all your ways and (b) how God has made (and how God continues to make) your paths straight.

### Read Luke 19:37 - 40

9. Did Jesus welcome or discourage the praise of the crowd when he rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday? Does Jesus welcome or discourage our praise of Him when we gather for worship on Sunday morning? Should a person who loves Jesus with all of his heart, mind, and soul remain silent when the hymns and spiritual songs are sung during a church worship service?

### Read Psalm 100 and Philippians 2:9 - 11

10. What guidance, if any, do these verses give to us for how we are to worship God when the music is played, and when the songs are sung, on Sunday morning? What affect, if any, does it have on your relationship with Jesus (a) when you publicly praise Him or (b) when you choose not to publicly praise Him?

### Read Mark 12:41 - 44

11. What matters more to God: (a) the dollar amount that you place in the offering or (b) the spirit and the attitude with which the offering is made? Can anyone give to God more than he or she has already received from God? Who owns your money: you? or God? Does God need and/or want (a) your money or (b) your heart? What, if any, is the relationship between how much you love God and how willingly you give a financial offering to God?

### Read Matthew 11:25 - 30

12. Refer to verse 27. When it comes to the matter of life, death, judgment, and salvation, how much has God entrusted and committed to His Son Jesus? To which group of people does Jesus offer the gift of salvation and the inheritance of heaven? Does Jesus have the right to expect you (and all of His followers) to love Him unconditionally with all that they are and all that they have?

**Consider:** Yes. God really does want us to love Him with all of our heart, soul, and mind. God purchased and redeemed us with the precious blood of Jesus His Son. He owns us and He wants us to acknowledge Him in all of our ways. And, He gives to us the power to do so. “You think about that.” Amen.