

WHAT IT MEANS TO LOVE GOD

August 6, 2017 Mark 12:28–34 by Bob Branch
Love That Changes Everything, part 2 of 3

BIG IDEA: What does it mean to love God?

²⁸ And one of the scribes came up *and* heard them debating. *When he* saw that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” ²⁹ Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Listen, Israel! The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart and from your whole soul and from your whole mind and from your whole strength.’ (Dt. 6:4-5) ³¹ The second *is* this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ (Lev. 19:18) There is no other commandment greater than these.” ³² And the scribe said to him, “That is true, Teacher. You have said correctly that he is one and there is no other except him. ³³ And to love him from your whole heart and from your whole understanding and from your whole strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” ³⁴ And Jesus, *when he* saw that he had answered thoughtfully, said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And no one dared to put a question to him any longer. **Mark 12:28–34** LEB

Shema, “Listen!” “Hear this!”

1. God wants your LOVE and DEVOTION above all.

Everything comes from that.

“I don’t want your sacrifices—I want your love; I don’t want your offerings—I want you to know me.” **Hosea 6:6**
LB

2. It is an all-encompassing devotion that involves every DIMENSION of you.

HEART— Command Center/will

“the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.” **Matthew 12:34**

SOUL— Emotions/feelings.

“My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.” **Matthew 26:38**

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!” **Psalms 103:1** ESV

MIND— Thoughts, intellect, ideas and attitudes.

“whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” **Phil. 4:8**

“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.” **Col. 3:2**

STRENGTH (might)— Actions, behavior and effort.

“let’s not just talk about love; let’s practice real love.”
1 John 3:18 Message

3. It is much more important than RELIGION.

“I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.” **Luke 7:47**
NLT