

“Jesus said to him, “*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*’³⁸ This is *the first and great commandment.*³⁹ And *the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’*⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 22:37-40). Reader, what do you think about this verse of scripture? It does sound, well..., rather easy to achieve. It is a simple and easy lesson from the Savior. It is a question answered by Jesus. So, what simple lesson can we learn here?

First, we learn that God is first in our lives. The first commandment is to love God with all our being. What does God require of us? It is to fear, love and serve Him each day of our lives. We must become dead to self and put selfish will behind us and strive for heaven each day we live here on earth. Jesus left for each of us the example to follow of selfless love when He willingly gave His life for us. Do you put studying God’s Word a priority in your life? What about praying, singing, worshipping, loving, honoring Him? Are all our decisions in life measured along with the commandments of God?

Second, we learn that others are second. The second commandment is to love our neighbors as yourself. We show no evidence of God’s love in our lives until we show that love to others (I John 3:23; 4:7-13, 20-21). We must consider others and their feelings as more important than ours (Philippians 2:3-4, Romans 12:10). Our duty is to reject our own pleasures, our own selfish desires and bear others burdens (Romans 15:1-3; Galatians 6:2). Do our thoughts and our words and our actions show “others first” as our Christian state of mind?

Third, we learn – Well, that we are third. Self-love, selfishness is the curse of our flesh. Meaning, we most likely think about “us” more than we do anything else. We think about our past, our present, and our future and we sometimes get too wrapped up in “us”. We have got to realize that the blessing of good communication is not talking about ourselves, but listening and helping others.

Friends, when we can follow this bit of simple and easy to understand scripture – The scripture in I John is easier understood. I John 5:2-4, “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith.” May God bless each of you as you walk with Him daily.

In Christ,

Joe Rhodes