

Great Commandment. Great Commission

There are multiple commandments and instructions in the Bible, so a lawyer asked Jesus, “Which is the greatest?” (Matt 22:36). Jesus responded, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind” (v 37). This should be our first priority, by it shall we know if we really love God. Many love Him because they get the things they desire. Some love Him because they have tried other religions and found that only God can meet their needs. This is not really loving God, for they fall away the moment they seem not to get what they want.

He really loves us. The love He has for us is beyond that of a mother for her nursing child. (See Isaiah 49.) He gave His life. What more could He do?

With all thy heart. The heart speaks of your innermost being; the seat of your passions. You remember Him and your heart melts with love.

With all your soul. The soul is the seat of your will and emotions. The reality of your love can be seen by what you do. Choose to be moved in response to your awareness of Him. Your decisions flow from the fear of God because you ask, “Can I do this and sin against God?” You decide if you should rejoice or be angry. The fountain of joy rises up just because you know Him. If you really love Him, you get angry at some things because God would be angry. This implies always asking, “What would God do?”

With all your mind. The mind is the seat of your intellect and knowledge. What knowledge do you seek? Christ knowledge or anti-Christ knowledge? I know a lady who fell away just because she was curious and began to study other religions instead of pursuing the knowledge of God. Guard your heart for out of it flows the issues of life. Exposing yourself to ungodly books or movies or TV will mess your spirit up by opening your soul to ungodly knowledge.

If you really love Him:

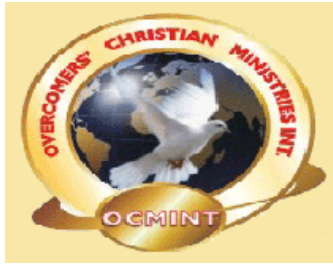
Worship Him. You can only worship the person you know. You must be aware of His worthship.

Obey Him.

Love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus made this very clear in the Parable of the Good Samaritan. The best way to show your love to God is to love your neighbor. In John 21, Jesus told Peter “If you love me, feed my lambs, tend my sheep, feed my sheep.”

More than these? Peter had gone back to fishing, his old manner of survival. Jesus wants to know if we love Him more than survival and the cares of the world. God tested Abraham’s love to know if he loved God more than he loved Isaac. Yes, we work and we have leisure time, but submit your schedule to God. Gehazi could have had 2 times the anointing of Elisha; 4 times the anointing of Elijah, but he chose to run after material things, and he and all his descendants were leprous. It is a question of priorities and timing.

Care for those in the fold. This is not just for pastors. When we come together in unity there is nothing the devil can do. Join a group in the church and make sure it is well with



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them. Belong to a team and help us to care for you. Don't allow yourself to be "too busy" to get involved. The One who gave you the sound health and the sound mind to function—is asking you to tend to His sheep. Pray for each other and the grace of God will suffice. Victory is more pronounced and is easier to attain as we care for each other. Rise up, be a shepherd, and glorify God.

He has other sheep. There are others out there who belong in the fold. (John 10:6; Luke 10:35-37). The priests and the Levites were too busy to stop and help, but an unbeliever had compassion. Whenever it is in your power to do good, do it as unto the Lord. Reach out, and don't be deceived by looks. Many who wear expensive clothes and drive expensive cars are hurting. Be lead by the Spirit. God is counting on you to reach out.

Go ye therefore. (Matt. 28:19).

Take the initiative. Touch someone. Jesus died for them. Wherever you find yourself, yield to the Spirit. Ask of Him and He will give you nations (Ps. 2:8). We are commanded to disciple nations to live the life of Christ. For this, your life has to reflect the life of Christ.

He brought you here to bring them back. We have all been given the ministry of reconciliation—to instill in them the life style of Christ. Step up. Nobody wants to go to hell. Why should you care less if your neighbor goes to hell? Tell them your testimony. Be their friend, be their family. 'Go ye therefore' is the Lord's great and last commandment, and it should be our first priority. Do you love Him enough to make it yours?