

Mike Mozingo—Lead Pastor February 19, 2023

"The Greatest Commandment" Week 3

The Most Important Commandment

²⁸ One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" ²⁹ Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. ³⁰ And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' ³¹ The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these." Mark 12:28-31 NLT

THE SECOND IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT.

³¹ "The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these." Mark 12:31 NLT

Loving One Another

⁷ Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. ⁸ But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. ¹⁰ This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. ¹² No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us. 1 John 4:7-12 NLT

¹⁹ We love each other because he loved us first. ²⁰ If someone says, "I love God," but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? ²¹ And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers. 1 John 4:19-21 NLT

THE EARLY CHURCH EXPLODED BECAUSE OF GOD'S LOVE.

⁴² All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. ⁴³ A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴⁴ And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵ They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity – ⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved. Acts 2:42-47 NLT

SOME WAYS WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER:

• Praying for one another.

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. James 5:16 NLT

• Encouraging one another.

²⁴ Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. **Hebrews 10:24-25 NLT**

• Caring for one another.

And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. Acts 2:44 NLT

• Sharpening one another.

As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend. Proverbs 27:17 NLT

<u>Teaching</u> one another.

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. **Acts 2:42 NLT**

· Generous to one another.

They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— Acts 2:46a NLT

• <u>Serving</u> one another.

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. 1 Peter 4:10 NLT

Speaking Truth to one another.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. ¹⁵ Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. ¹⁶ He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the

other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. Ephesians 4:14-16 NLT

- Next steps for me today...

 Love God with everything I've got.

 Love others in ways that are tangible.

 Love others the way I would want to be loved.