**The Chief Duty of Man**

“How to respond to the Love of God.”

**Text**: **Mark 12:28-34**, “28And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” 29Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ 31The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” 32And the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. 33And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” 34And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.” **English Standard Version**

*Responding to God’s love requires you to*…

**Point #1**: **Seek** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! **v.28**

*Responding to God’s love requires you to*…

**Point #2**: **Love** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! **vv.29-30**

*Sub-Point A*.) Love God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

*Sub-Point B*.) Love God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

*Responding to God’s love requires you to*…

**Point #3**: **Love** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! ­­­­ **vv.31-34**

*Sub-Point A*.) Love others \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

*Sub-Point B*.) Love others \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

*Sub-Point C*.) Love others \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Corollary Verses**: Matthew 22:34-35; Colossians 1:10; Deuteronomy 6:4; John 14:31; Exodus 34:14, 20:4-6; Leviticus 19:18; 1 John 4:19-21;

**Application Questions**

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today’s sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to the questions listed below will assist you in gaining a better understanding of the point of this passage. Please be prepared to discuss your answers with your Home Fellowship Groups.

1. Read **Leviticus 19:10-18** and **Luke 10:25-29** then answer the following questions. Does Scripture limit the qualifications for identifying who your neighbor is? Make a list from this passage of all the practical ways that you can genuinely love your neighbor as yourself. Share your list with the group.
2. Read **1 Samuel 15:22**; **Proverbs 21:3**; and **Hosea 6:6** then answer the following questions. The prophets are comparing and contrasting the Old Testament practice of sacrifice to wholehearted acts of worship. What are some of the dangers of participating in religious rituals like “offering a sacrifice” (a repeated religious practice done often and frequent), as opposed to wholehearted acts of worship? How did Saul sin against God in First Samuel 15? What kind of worship is God looking for?
3. Read **Micah 6:8**; **Habakkuk 2:4**; and **Proverbs 3:6** then answer the following questions. According to these verses, what does God desire from us? How does this relate to our passage in **Mark 12:28-34**? How do these Old Testament passages compare to the New Testament passages? Are they different or do they virtually say the same thing? How to they support the immutability of God and His unchanging desires for us?
4. Read **1 John 4:19-21** and **Romans 13:8-10** then answer the following questions. For believers, is loving other people an option? What kind of heart is revealed by the person who claims allegiance to God, yet hates his brother? How would Scripture identify such a person? Does it view them as an authentic Christian? What debt do you owe others, because God has loved you? How does the Romans passage help you understand the chief duty of man?