

June 17, 2018

Matthew 22:34-40

Question about the Greatest Commandment

- Jesus answered by summarizing the Law and the Prophets as one Law by quoting **Deut. 6:5** and **Lev. 19:18**.
- Being created in God's image (**Gen. 1:26**) looks like these commands—upwardly and outwardly: to love God, and to love those whom He loves.
- What does God's unique love look like?

***1 John 4:19-11** In this is love, not that we have loved God but that God [first] loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another*

***1 John 4:8** God is love...*

- Love is not a part of God's nature; love is God's nature.
- If we are God's image-bearers, we will image His kind of love toward Him and toward one another.

***1 John 4:11-12** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another... if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us*

- This love is the love that is demonstrated between the Father and the Son: The Father's love in sending His Son as the Redeemer of His people and the Son's reciprocal love for the Father in His obedience to the Father in being sent.
- This is the love that has been given to us in Christ:
John 5:42 I know that you do not have the love of God within you...
- This love is self-less, other-oriented, self-giving (**John 3:16-17**).
- God created in order to share Himself [His love] with His people, knowing the enormous cost would be the cross but also knowing that the enormous result would be eternal fellowship with the people whom He loves (**1 John 3:1-2**).
- Adam and Eve were created to reflect God's kind of love for God as they walked and related to one another with God's love within the context of their distinctive roles.
But Satan:

Gen.3:1- Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die." But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

- By emphasizing something for and about them, they grasped for that which they thought benefitted them:
v. 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate...

- By rejecting God's Self-giving love, they became enslaved to a self-getting, self-grasping love.
- Years later, in **Ex. 20:2-17**, YHWH gave His Law of love. In the first four commands, their love for God is in view and in the next six their love for one another is in view.
- The first command [Ex.20:3] is the equivalent of Deut. 6:4 and Deut. 6:5 is equivalent to Ex. 20:4-7 and Lev. 19:18 to Ex. 20:8-17.
- What will the love of God in us look like when others are the object?

Gal.5:22-23 ...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law

- Let's remember that every relational difficulty, no matter the source, is a battle for the preeminence of God's love in and through us.