## **MATTHEW 19:17-26 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

## THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT - (SERMON MP3)

We have just finished our preaching series on the Ten Commandments, and if you have been with us for even a week or two, you probably have the same feeling about the Law: "I stand condemned." Look at the list of the Ten Commandments below and just meditate a minute on how you have broken some this week:



You shall have no other gods before Me.	Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.	You shall not steal
You shall not make idols.	Honor your father and your mother	You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor
You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.	You shall not murder.	You shall not covet
	You shall not commit adultery	

When Jesus walked the earth, a young lawyer came to him and asked, "What good deed must I do to have eternal life?"



- Write out Jesus' answer in your own words from Matthew 19:17-26.
- What was Jesus' meaning?
- Had anyone ever fulfilled perfectly the Ten Commandments? YES NO

Though we may walk away sorrowful like the young lawyer, God's desire is that we would understand how to truly fulfill the law.



- Answer the following questions from Matthew 22:36-40. What is the great commandment in the Law, according to Jesus?
- Look back at the list of the Ten Commandments and circle the ones that are fulfilled in "You shall love God" and then put a star by the ones that are fulfilled in "You shall love your neighbor." Jesus came to show the world that the law could be fulfilled, but not by being the perfect person, the law could be fulfilled by knowing and loving the only perfect Person!

In order to truly love God, we must know that we are loved by God. Some of us know the Bible answers that prove God's love for us, but we still fail to sense the love of God in our own lives. Listed below are some common hindrances to believing that God personally loves you.



I was never loved in my home.

- Lack of meditation on the cross of Christ.
- I have committed an unforgivable sin or cannot have victory over sin.
- I have been hurt and cannot understand how God could allow that.

Unbelief in the Word of God.

Great love for self.

Underestimation of our own sinfulness.

Even a Christian may live in despair, feeling the condemnation of the law and not recognizing the love of God. How do you personally know God loves you? Give Scripture to support your answer:



- If you are struggling with believing God loves you, one of the best things to do is to meditate on the cross of Christ, pray, and then tell a Christian friend about your struggle. Here are some passages for meditation: Isaiah 53, Matthew 26-28, 1 Corinthians 15.
- If you have been without love in your life for both God and others, perhaps it is because you have never truly come to know the Lord as your personal Savior. Look up Romans 5:5 and write out the verse here:

Has the love of God been poured out in your heart? Does the Holy Spirit live within you? These are spiritual questions that require spiritual answers. You cannot simply say, "I believe" but you must "with the heart believe" and "with the mouth confess" in order to be saved. See Romans 10:9.

One of GGC's core values leads us into "Love your neighbor as yourself." We call it, "Life Touching Life Community" - Christ's intention is that believers live in community with one another through life-touching-life relationships. When we are secure in God's love, we become free and responsible to love one another in transparency, accountability, and mutual edification.



- How does loving God and being loved by God naturally flow into loving your neighbor?
- Do you know the "Golden Rule?" Read Matthew 7:12. The context of this maxim is actually prayer. You see, when we are trusting God's loving hand to provide for us emotionally and physically, we pray. And when we are confident in God's love and care, we are free to give, to love, and to serve others without fear. Truly we are able then to love our neighbor.

## DIGGING DEEPER (FOR EXTRA PERSONAL STUDY)

Romans 13:8-10 teaches us more about loving others. We learn that we are obligated to pay the debt of love because it fulfills the Law. Notice how Paul emphasizes the point by saying it two times. 9v. 8c( "For the one who loves another has fulfilled the law." and then (v. 10b) "therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." But how? How does love fulfill the law? Notice in v. 9 that Love fulfills the spirit of the law (If you love your neighbor, you won't lust after his/her wife or husband...if you love your neighbor, you won't hate him or kill him...if you love you neighbor, you won't steal from him...if you love your neighbor, you won't begrudge him his prosperity or get angry because you have less than he does). Love also fulfills the law because when we have this kind of love for others, Christ is seen—for He alone can enable us to do what the law demands. When you love and fulfill the law, your life points to the work of Christ! Consider the following questions to check on your love for others:

	PRAYER REQUESTS
As energetic as I am in pursuing my own happiness, am I that energetic in pursuing the happiness of others?	
As creative as I am in the pursuing my own happiness, am I that creative in pursuing the happiness of others?	
As persevering as I am in pursuing my own happiness, am I persevering in pursuing the happiness of others?	
The greatest debt we owe is love. One of the church Fathers, Origen (A.D. 185-254), wrote, "Let your only debt that is unpaid be that of love. We must pay it daily and yet always owe it." Loving the lovable is easy. Loving the irritable, cranky, annoying, frustrating, crabby, unreasonable, cantankerous people, is hard.	
Who is God spurring you to love this week?	
How will you demonstrate your love?	
Jesus said in Matthew 5:17-18, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished." At the end of our study on the Ten Commandments, would you take time to consider how Jesus fulfilled all of the law perfectly, for you?	
He fulfilled the prophecies, the commands, the demands, and the doctrinal teachings. In fact, He was the theme of the Old Testament! He affirmed the law through his life and promises.	
When you think about Jesus living out the law in every respect, what is your response?	
How does Jesus' perfect obedience change your life?	