



## **YOU ARE OUR NEIGHBOR AND WE LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS...**

Jesus said to love your neighbor as yourself (Mark 12:31). That is why we love you as our neighbor. Please let us explain how God gave us love for those whom we do not know.

Previous to the above statement, Jesus said we must believe in One God, the Lord, "Hear, O Israel; the Lord our God is one Lord." He followed this with one of the strongest commandments to mankind, "And thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: This is the first commandment" (Mark 12:29-30).

Once a person learns to love God as Jesus said in this Bible passage, then we can see how to love our neighbors. Concerning these two commandments of love, Jesus said, "There is no other commandment greater than these" (Mark 12:31). What makes these two commandments so great? Can you think of any greater commandment? If you say yes, then you are claiming more wisdom than Jesus. Let us test what some claim to be great and really see if it is greater than uncompromised love for the One True God:

- ◆ Religious works are not greater (Titus 3:5).
- ◆ Baptism is not greater (1 Corinthians 1:17).
- ◆ Keeping genealogies is not greater (Titus 3:9).
- ◆ Angelic messages are not greater (Gal. 1:6-9).
- ◆ Prophecy is not greater (1 Cor. 13:2).
- ◆ Knowledge is not greater (1 Cor. 13:2).
- ◆ Organizing a group isn't greater (1 Cor. 1:12).

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LOVE GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, SOUL, MIND AND STRENGTH?** It simply means what Jesus said. There is one God, none before Him and none after Him (Isaiah 43:10, 44:8, James 2:19). We must love God truly from our heart, but Jesus pointed out a problem with our hearts. Our hearts are full of evil thoughts (Mark 7:21-23). We are to love this true God from our soul, but Jesus pointed out the problem of our soul. Our souls deceive us (Luke 12:19-21). We are to love God with our mind, but the Bible points out a problem with our mind. Our carnal mind is an enemy to

God (Romans 8:7). We are to love God with all our strength, but Jesus pointed out a problem with our flesh. Our spirit is willing, but our flesh is weak (Matthew 26:41). God did not abandon us in our despair. He provided the answer to life and love through Jesus Christ.

Our sinful nature is what keeps us from loving God the way Jesus said we should. That is also why people have trouble loving their neighbors. Jesus does not want us to do it on our own. He wants to work His own love through us (Philippians 2:13). The first thing we must realize is that we are separated from God by our sinful natures (Romans 3:23, 6:23). The only provision God has given us for sin is the atonement of Jesus on the cross (Romans 5:8, 2 Corinthians 5:21). We must receive Jesus into our life to be forgiven of all sins and become righteous through His blood. "...having been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him" (Romans 5:9). "...and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). "Behold, I stand at the door and knock, If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20).

Why put it off any longer? If your desire is to love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, then you can accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior today by putting your faith in Him. "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9). Pray to the One true God right now, ask Him to forgive you of your sins and change your life. Ask Jesus to come into your heart and He will keep His promise; **you will be saved!** Once you have done this, read the New Testament to find out more about Jesus. Pray often and attend a Bible-centered Church.

## Jude 3 Missions

☞ "Contend earnestly for the faith" - Jude 3

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