



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

