

LOVE GOD

Matthew 22:34-40

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What does love mean to you? How would you define it? Or, if you think there are multiple definitions of love, what are the different meanings?
- How would you say you currently show your love for God?

We talk about love a lot—the things we love, activities we love to do, the people we love...the list goes on. But when Jesus says the first and greatest commandment is to love God, the meaning and reality of this love is more profound than any of our earthly loves. So what does it really mean to love God? How is it both like and unlike the other loves in our lives? Discussing these questions in light of Jesus' declaration reveals the unexpected blessing and growth we can receive by simply following his command to love God.

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- When you think about laws, do you find yourself thinking more about restrictions or freedoms? Why do you think host Scott Hoezee says God's law leads to flourishing? How is it different than government laws?
- Why is *showing* our love for God important for our faith?
- What does it mean to you that God desires your love, that he invites you to love him and be in relationship with him? How is this different than if he had created us to serve and obey him, but did not include love or relationship in the equation?
- Are there different ways to love God with your heart vs. with your soul vs. with your mind? In what ways do you love God with your whole being?

Related Passages

- **Deuteronomy 6:1-12**
- **Romans 5:6-8**
- **1 John 4:7-12**

Conclusion

Read and reflect on Paul's prayer found in Ephesians 3:14-19:

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so

that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Consider how Paul's prayer helps us love God and keep the greatest commandment. Write down or share your thoughts.

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