

## **FOLLOWING LOVE – 3**

**AUGUST 15, 2018**

### **MARK 12:28-34**

Jesus impressed a Scribe by answering two questions. One about life after death, the other about the first commandment. The Scribe impressed Jesus with his response. Loving God and man is more important than burnt offerings and sacrifices.

### **LOVING GOD**

1. Heart – Inward affections and passions.
  - A. **MATTHEW 6:21** – The heart loves what it treasures, or considers of great worth or value.
    - **PHILIPPIANS 3:8 (NLT)** Paul valued knowing Christ above everything and everyone. Christ is what he treasured.
  - B. **PROVERBS 4:23** – We must protect the heart from treasuring things that oppose God's will.
    - **1 JOHN 2:15-17 (KJV, NLT)** Our affections follow what we treasure, and they determine our devotion.
    - **PSALMS 119:11 (KJV, GW)** He treasured God's Word.
2. Soul – Emotional feelings and passions.
  - A. **PSALMS 107:9** – Only God can satisfy the longing soul. Drugs can't, and neither can alcohol, sex, material possessions or fame.
  - B. **PSALMS 42:1, 63:1-2** – God's glory satisfies the soul.
3. Mind – How we think and with our decisions.
  - A. **ROMANS 8:5-8** – The carnal mind doesn't want to submit to the Word of God. It's an active force of rebellion against God.
  - B. **COLOSSIANS 3:1-2** – We love God with our mind by setting it on things above; **ROMANS 12:2** By renewing it to God's Word; **2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5** By resisting contradictory thoughts; and by keeping it fixed on God, **ISAIAH 26:3**.

4. Strength – Using all our energies to turn away from evil and to obey God.
  - A. **PSALMS 29:1** – Our strength can be our time, talents, skills, abilities, finances or whatever resource we have that can be used to honor and glorify God.
  - B. Loving God runs deeper than following do's and don'ts. It's seeing His person, His character and how He longs for things to go well with us. It's out of reverence that we keep His commandments to prove our love. **DEUTERONOMY 5:29 (ESV), JOHN 14:21**

## **AS WE LOVE OURSELVES**

1. Understanding our value. **1 PETER 1:18-19**
2. Accepting ourselves as we are. **PSALMS 139:14**
  - A. We all have things we don't like about ourselves but we refuse to be controlled by them.
3. Seeing ourselves as God sees us. **EPHESIANS 2:10**
4. Being at peace with ourselves. **JOHN 14:27**
5. Not basing our self-worth on our performance. **PHILIPPIANS 4:13**
6. Forgiving ourselves and forgetting past failures. **PHILIPPIANS 3:13**
  - A. The wrong way to love ourselves is to exalt our desires, needs and dreams over God or others. Self-love that puts God second is wrong: Marrying a non-believer, wanting my needs met before I consider my wife's or children's.
  - B. The right way to love ourselves: To exalt God and make ourselves secondary. Properly prioritizing our lives according to kingdom values.