

Take 5!

5 Verses, 5 Questions, 5 Minutes!

Heart and Soul!



Please take a moment to ask your Heavenly Father to cleanse your heart and fill you anew with His Holy Spirit. Now please read Matthew 22:36-40.

What commandment did Jesus say is the greatest commandment?

In the whole Bible, Jesus names the *Shema*, Deuteronomy 6:5, as the greatest commandment. In this significantly important verse, God tells His people that they are to love Him with their *heart, soul* and *mind*. Let's take a look at what these words mean in the original language.

Heart: "the center of all physical and spiritual life, the seat of: thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, endeavors of understanding, the faculty and seat of intelligence, of the will and character." In short, when we love God with all our heart, we are seeking and serving Him with everything we've got!

Soul: "that in which there is life, the seat of feelings, desires affections and aversions, the essence of the body that is not dissolved by death, the (human) soul in so far as it is constituted that by the right use of the aids offered it by God it can attain its highest end and secure eternal blessedness, the soul regarded as a moral being designed for everlasting life."

Mind: mind, i.e. spirit, way of thinking and feeling, thoughts, a particular mode of thinking and judging, i.e. thoughts, feelings, purposes, desires.

What is the second greatest commandment?

Notice the priorities inferred by these two verses; God first, others second and *self* comes in last place.

We need to note that the word *neighbor* used in this verse does not refer just to those who live next door to you or in your neighborhood. The original Greek word for *neighbor* is *plesion* which means "neighbor, friend, any member of the Hebrew nation, and according to Christ... any person whom we chance to meet."

List the *neighbors* you might meet in the course of a normal day.

How can you love these people *as yourself*?

What hangs on these two commandments (verse 40)?

Isn't it amazing that the motivation for keeping the Old Testament Law hanged on loving God with all one's heart soul and mind? Like the Old Testament Jews, we too are empowered to obey God by our love for Him.