

No Such Thing as a Stupid Question

Which is the Greatest Commandment? Matthew 22:34-40

Message Outline

Two ways to understand our relationship with God. It's all about what I do for God

1. Motivated by rules.

- *My rule-keeping pleases God*
- *My rule-keeping makes me feel secure*
- *My rule-keeping shows others I am a good person*

It's all about what God has done for me

1. Motivated by love.

- *We love because God loves us*
- *God loves us and is pleased when we love.*
- *There is no "good works" without love*

What can I do to become a more loving person?

"Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets." *Matthew 7:12*

1. Forgive someone who has hurt you.
2. Tell someone that you love them.

This week, I will show God's love by doing for someone else what I wished someone had done for me.

Matthew 22:34-40

New Living Translation (NLT)

The Greatest Commandment

34 But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees with his reply, they met together to question him again. 35 One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: 36 "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?"

37 Jesus replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind." 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 A second is equally important: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 40 The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."

Study Questions

1. How does the message of God's love and mercy through Jesus Christ change the way you think about obeying God?
2. How do 'rules' fit into our understanding of grace and the gospel?
3. How are rules helpful in living our lives as followers of Jesus?
4. How can rules hinder us in living our lives as followers of Jesus?
5. Why do you think "loving God and others" are the greatest commandments? How do Romans 13:8; Galatians 5:14; & James 2:8 help us understand Jesus teaching in Matt 22:34-40?
6. In Matthew 7:12, Jesus uses a similar phrase as 22:40 which shows us the ideas are related. How does Jesus define love in Matthew 7:12?
7. What are some practical things we can do to love others as defined by Jesus in Matthew 7:12?