

**Spiritual How-to's**  
**"Love the Lord"**  
**Debbie Chaney**

**Intro- In these sessions we share tips on how to please the Lord. You'll find brief, bible, basics on things that you can do that will genuinely please the Lord.**

**Today's topic – How to love the Lord.**

**I. Pleasing the Lord is NOT a list of do's and don'ts.**

Some think that serving God is just that – a long list of obligations.

**A. Maybe that stems from Jewish tradition, when Moses received 613 commandments on Sinai.**

1. In that list there were negative and positive commands
2. Negative – 365, days in the solar calendar
3. positive – 248, the number of bones & main organs in the human body
4. 613 knotted fringes of the prayer shawl – the tallit (600 +13)
5. not just 10 commandments but 613...

**B. The 10 commandments and their double sided tablet listed –**

1. Duties toward God = the first 4 commands
2. Duties toward man = the last 6 commands

**C. In that same Jewish tradition tho, "The Shema", as it is called, tells what is considered the greatest command –**

1. **Deut. 6:4 & 5** - "Hear O Israel, the Lord is One. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your might."
2. If the whole of those 613 commands were summarized, it would be  
\*\* Love God with all you have, mind, body, soul and strength.

**II. 1,300 plus years later, when Jesus was asked, what was the greatest commandment, He quoted The Shema- in Mat. 22:35-40; Mk. 10:28; & Luke 10:27-28:**

**A. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind.** This is the great and first commandment. And the 2<sup>nd</sup> is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

**B. He added – Love your neighbor as yourself.**

**C. These were the 2 categories from the 10 on the 2-sided tablets –**

1. duties to (love) God
2. duties to (love) man

**D. The Pharisees were known for the legalistic obedience to those 613 laws.**

1. It affected everything they did
2. ate, word, speech, believed, traveled, washed, clothes, marriage, Sabbath
3. JESUS CAME & MESSED IT ALL UP FOR THEM
4. He told them they were neglecting weightier matters like justice, mercy & faithfulness. Mat. 23:23
5. Mat. 23 is a scathing bring down of their religious & dutiful practices
6. Forget the lists, he said, LOVE GOD & LOVE OTHERS and you will fulfill it all!

**E. Jesus came & brought a new commandment – John 13:34 – Love one another**

**III. Loving the Lord is the basis for my pleasing Him, not a list of dos and don'ts**

**A. God is LOVE. 1 Jn. 4:8**

1. He loved us 1<sup>st</sup> 1 Jn. 4:19; John 3:16
2. while we are sinners He loves us Rom. 5:8
3. He chose us before the foundation of the world Eph. 1:4
4. Jesus came to earth, perfect and blameless for me 1 Pet. 1:18-19
5. He suffered for me Rom. 5:6
6. He died for me Rom. 5:28
7. He answers when I call Jer. 33:3
8. He knows me and loves me still Ps. 139
9. He never leaves me Heb. 13:5

**B. He is gracious, merciful, slow to anger,** abounding in steadfast love, & relenting in disaster. Jon. 4:2

**IV. I love God then, with all of me. I am all in. Heart, mind, soul, strength.** All in, is the sum of all my little choices throughout the day. My passion drives my purpose, as Ella Hearean says.

**How do you love God, then -**

- A. HEART** – your deepest, best part. Conversation, prayer, go to Him, get to know Him
- B. SOUL** – dedicating your life to Him. Find out what He wants for you & go for it
- C. MIND** – back up your passion with knowledge. Mind & heart are related. Use your reasoning to love him more fully. Ask questions, seek answers
- D. STRENGTH** – persevering each day in your choices to please Him. Love demands strength & courage

**E. Love the Lord in each moment of the day, because each one matters.**

1. Those loving moments connected together become days,
2. those days become months
3. months become years
4. years add up to a tremendous love story between you & the Lord

**Closing – Forget your list of obligations for serving the Lord and simply -**

1. Love God – be all in, in loving him
2. Love others – be genuine & care

**PERIOD.**

Underdebraspalm.com