

## Huddle

Love, Serve, Pursue - Love People  
February 10, 2013

**Describe a time when you were confused by someone who had multiple expectations of you.**

In today's scripture, the Pharisees tried to draw Jesus into their arguments regarding which of the 613 specific commands in the Torah (Old Testament) were of the highest priority to God. Jesus brought a breath of fresh air by simplifying our relationships within two clear principles.

**When was the last time you felt confused about what God wanted you to do? How could the principles of Love God and Love People help you in knowing what to do?**

Sometimes we get paralyzed because there are too many choices and we feel unable to walk them out. Pastor Phil challenged us to understand **"God will never love you more than He does right now"**. He also said, "God loves you just the way you are, but He refuses to leave you that way. He wants you to be like Jesus." Being like Jesus means walking in the two core principles. Israel Houghton's song Love God, Love People sums it up as

You can't give it, 'til you live it  
Now that your heart is open  
Just reach out and love

(Play at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TN0odRU3lek>)

**Which of the two principles - love God, love people - gives you a harder time and why?**

Pastor used the illustration of nesting dolls. 631 commands of the law are summed up in the 10 commandments and the 10 commandments are summed up in 2 key concepts.

Love God

No other gods before me  
No carved images to worship  
No taking the name of the Lord in vain  
Observe the Sabbath

Love People

Honor your father and mother  
No murder  
No committing adultery  
No stealing  
No bearing false witness (lying)  
No coveting

The cross represents our heart vertically and horizontally. We need both beams to live a balanced Christian life. We can focus our efforts to attempt to keep commands or we can focus our heart in love to God and to people.

D.L. Moody said **"God hates the great things in which love is not the motive power; but He delights in the little things that are prompted by a feeling of love."**

Matthew 22:34 But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" 37 Jesus said to him, **"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."** 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: **"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."** 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. NKJV

## Let's Get Real!

1 John 4:17 And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. 18 **Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear.** If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. 19 **We love each other because he loved us first.** NLT

**When and how did you change from serving God by doing what is right out (fear) to loving Him and loving others?**

When Jesus recalled the greatest commandment, He was calling for agape love, a sustained and conscious choice to graciously serve God, neighbor, and self, expecting nothing in return. As followers of Christ, **we learn this love as God loves us first.** He then commands us to live in the same way to others. God's love empowers us to love by choice rather than out of emotion or senses, and to sustain our love in the face of hostility or rejection. It involves our thoughts, words, and actions and is a sign of being a disciple of Christ.

**Describe a recent time when you have demonstrated agape.**

Who are we to love:

- Other believers, Christ-followers (John 13:34-35)
- Our neighbors (Luke 10:25-37)
- Our enemies (Matthew 5:43-44, Luke 6:27-36)

**The only way you can keep loving others the way God wants you to is to keep loving Him the way you need to!** The more you focus on Him, the more loving Him and others becomes natural. When we continually struggle to love God or stop loving God, we always look for other means to fulfill that void created in our lives.

**How do you regularly go out of your way to kindle your love for God and live out His love toward people?**

## Walk it Out

**How will you allow God's love to motivate your choices, thoughts, words, and actions this week?**