

The Commands of Christ Part 1:

Love God

Mark 12:28-30 One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

Why? Is this command for God's sake or for ours?

We were made to love, worship, and adore; He is the only one worthy of all of our love.

Nehemiah 9:6 You alone are the Lord. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you.

Psalms 73:25-26 Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

How?

By receiving His love, knowing His love, Enjoy Being Loved

1 John 4:19 We love because he first loved us.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

By knowing Him more and more

Psalms 86:15 But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

*Psalms 63:6 On my bed I **remember** you; I **think** of you through the watches of the night.*

By being Thankful

1 Chronicles 16:34 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Hebrews 12:28-29 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire."

By Obeying; May include making some really difficult or unpopular choices that honor God

1 John 5:3 In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,

By loving people (especially the least)

Matthew 25:38-40 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

1 John 4:20 Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.

By humbling ourselves, trusting Him, and letting Him be God

John 3:30 He must become greater; I must become less."

By acknowledging Him before others

Luke 12:8 "I tell you, whoever publicly acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God.