

# DOING THE WILL OF GOD: GETTING JUSTICE & RIGHTEOUSNESS RIGHT!

## THE GREAT AND FIRST COMMANDMENT ...

**T**eacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?”

**A**nd he said to him, “You shall 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.”

• (Matthew 22:36–38 ESV)

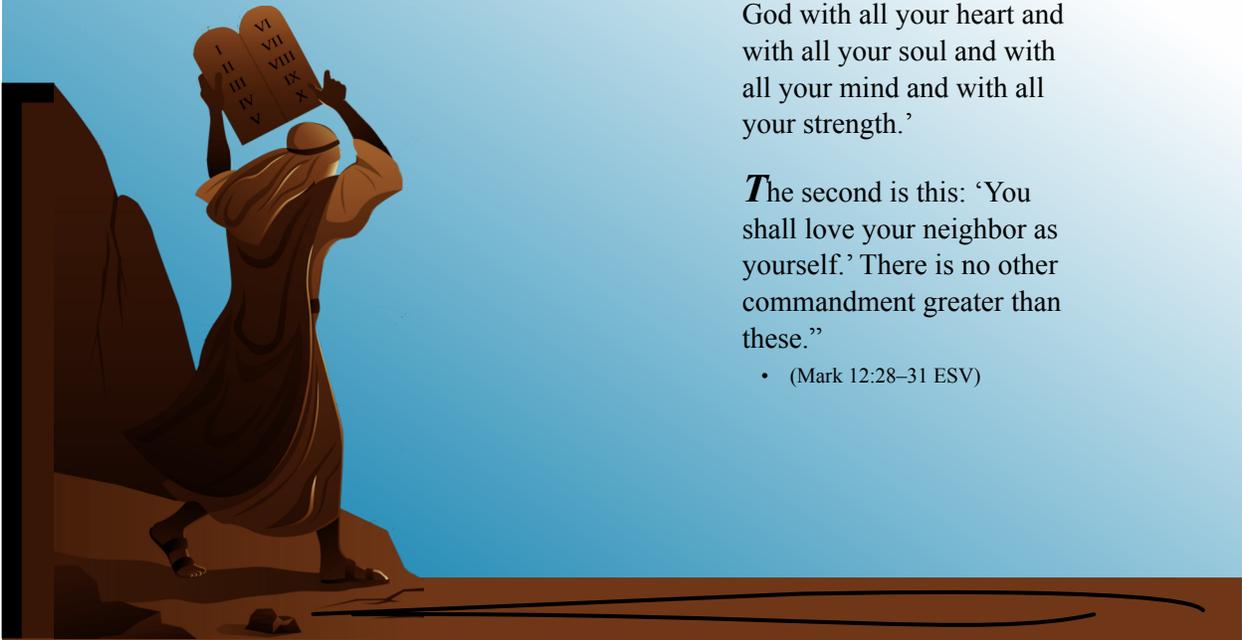
## THE MOST IMPORTANT COMMANDMENT ...

**A**nd one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?”

**J**esus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’

**T**he second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

• (Mark 12:28–31 ESV)



NOT COMPLICATED ...

DOING THE WILL OF GOD IS RIGHTEOUSNESS —> NOT DOING THE WILL OF GOD IS WICKEDNESS

**PART ONE: TO GET JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS  
RIGHT WE MUST DO THE WILL OF GOD.**

To do this we look to the word of God and the Holy Spirit of God to reset the direction of our minds and hearts toward God and the things of God.

**1. Doing the will of God is righteousness—>not doing the will of God is wickedness.**

- (Genesis 2:16–17 ESV) And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “**You may surely** eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil **you shall not** eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

**2. To do God's will we must be people after God's own heart.**

- (1 Samuel 13:14 ESV) But now your kingdom shall not continue. **The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart**, and the Lord has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.
- (Acts 13:22 ESV) And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, I have found in David the son of Jesse **a man after my heart, who will do all my will**.

**3. Review: We must know where we are before God.**

Understand that we all begin in a state of wickedness and God is the only one who can deliver us and turn us from wickedness to justice and righteousness.

- (Ecclesiastes 3:16–17 ESV) Moreover, I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, **even there was wickedness**, and in the place of righteousness, **even there was wickedness**. 17 I said in my heart, **God will judge the righteous and the wicked**, for there is a time for every matter and for every work.

**4. To do God's will we must make sure we take into account our evil inclinations.**

- (Psalm 19:12 NLT) How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart? **Cleanse me from these hidden faults**.
- (Psalm 141:3–4 ESV) Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips! 4 **Do not let my heart incline**

**to any evil, to busy myself with wicked deeds** in company with men who work iniquity, and let me not eat of their delicacies!

**5. To do God's will we must set our minds on the things of the Spirit.**

- (Romans 8:5–8 ESV) For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, **but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit**. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but **to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace**. 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 **Those who are in the flesh cannot please God**.

**6. To do God's will we must avoid setting our minds on earthly things.**

- (Philippians 3:19 ESV) Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and **they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things**.

**7. To do God's will we must seek the things above and set our minds on things above.**

- (Colossians 3:1–2 ESV) If then you have been raised with Christ, **seek the things that are above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 **Set your minds on things that are above**, not on things that are on earth.
- (Matthew 6:33 NLT) **Seek the Kingdom of God above all else**, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

**8. To do God's will we must prepare our minds for action and set our hope on grace.**

- (1 Peter 1:13 ESV) Therefore, **preparing your minds for action**, and being sober-minded, **set your hope fully on the grace** that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

**9. Review: To do God's will we must not set our minds on repairing this broken world.**

- (Ecclesiastes 1:14 ESV) **What is crooked cannot be made straight, and what is lacking cannot be counted**.

**10. To do God's will we must set our whole heart to seek God and the things of God.**

- (Deuteronomy 4:29 ESV) But from there you will seek the LORD your God and you

will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul.

- (Psalm 119:2–3 ESV) Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, 3 who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways!
- (Jeremiah 29:12–13 ESV) Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. 13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

11. To do God's will we must sow righteousness and not plow iniquity.

- (Hosea 10:12–13 ESV) Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek the LORD, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you. 13 You have plowed iniquity; you have reaped injustice; you have eaten the fruit of lies. Because you have trusted in your own way and in the multitude of your warriors.

12. To do God's will we must pursue God with our "whole heart" which enables us to overcome the sin of expedience.

- (John 18:13–14 ESV) First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. 14 It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

13. Pursuing God with a "whole heart" means believing God for what is just and right without regard for our own personal gain and to the glory of God.

The righteous live by faith—which is believing God and doing what he says. And then with clean hands and a pure heart we will be able to follow God even when he calls us to turn away from our known, comfortable paths—our moral codes, culture, religious and political traditions—when those paths conflict with the teaching of the word of God.

- (Romans 1:17 ESV) For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."
- (Hebrews 10:38 ESV) But my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him."

- (Psalm 24:3–4 ESV) Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

**PART TWO: TO GET JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS RIGHT BY DOING THE WILL OF GOD WE MUST DEPEND SOLELY ON THE WORD OF GOD.**

To do this we must have a sound, biblical plan that displaces the wickedness in our lives with the justice and righteousness of God.

1. To do the will of God so that God may displace our wickedness with his justice and righteousness we must accept and agree with what God says is most important.

- a. We must accept God's moral code—what God says it is—not what humans devise and contrive it to be.

*WE NEED TO ASK OURSELVES THESE TWO QUESTIONS ...*

1) Why do we—evangelicals, fundamentalists, moralists, etc—insist on the Ten Commandments as the primary basis for God's moral code?

2) If we are truly interested in God's moral code, then why do we not focus on the commandment that he clearly states is the greatest and most important?

- b. God very clearly states that loving him with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind is the great and first command.

- (Matthew 22:35–40 ESV) And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

- c. God very clearly states that loving him first and foremost is the most important command.

- (Mark 12:28–31 ESV) And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" 29 Jesus answered, "The most

important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

d. God very clearly states that loving our neighbor as ourself is the second great command.

2. To do the will of God so that God may displace our wickedness with his justice and righteousness we must pursue God's intent through the rest of God's commandments through the lens of the two greatest, most important commandments.

- (Matthew 22:40 ESV) On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.
- (Romans 13:8 ESV) Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

3. The person who refuses to take his or her moral code captive in obedience to the word of God will ultimately exalt that same moral code above God's.

- (2 Corinthians 10:5 ESV) We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.
- (Matthew 15:1-3 ESV) Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, 2 "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders?" For they do not wash their hands when they eat." 3 He answered them, "And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?"

4. When we obey God and love him as he commands us to love him, we will learn to delight in the will of God and the ways of God.

- (Psalm 119:47 NLT) How I delight in your commands! How I love them!
- (Psalm 119:127-128 NIV) Because I love your commands more than gold, more than pure gold, 128 and because I consider all your precepts right, I hate every wrong path.
- (Deuteronomy 6:4-6 ESV) Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and

with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.

- (Deuteronomy 19:9a ESV) Provided you are careful to keep all this commandment, which I command you today, by loving the LORD your God and by walking ever in his ways.
- (Joshua 22:5 ESV) Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and to cling to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.

5. If we love him, we will obey his commandments to love him (first and foremost) and to love our brothers and sisters in Christ.

- (John 14:15 ESV) If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
- (John 14:21a ESV) Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me.
- (John 15:12 ESV) This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
- (John 15:17 ESV) These things I command you, so that you will love one another.
- (1 John 3:23 ESV) And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.
- (1 John 5:2-3 ESV) By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.
- (2 John 5-6 ESV) And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. 6 And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.