

# Love God With Your Whole Heart pt2

Sermon Title: Love God With Your Whole Heart pt2

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Thank you for joining Brothers of the Word because brother you need the Word!

We are so delighted to have those of you who are joining us by television and those of you joining us at AirJesus.com. Stay tuned to today's message. We are doing part two, something we started a couple of weeks ago entitled, "Loving God With Your Whole Heart".

I would like to read a little humor that I read this week and it's about a man who is in a divorce court. The judge was speaking to him in the divorce court. Mr. Clark, I have reviewed this case very carefully, the divorce court judge said. And I've decided to give your wife \$775.00 a week. That's very fare your honor, the husband said and every now and then, I'll try to send her a few bucks myself.

Open your Bibles if you will to the gospel of Mark chapter 12, one of our texts that we started from. We'll also read one from Deuteronomy chapter 6. But let's begin with the gospel of Mark 12:28-31:

“<sup>28</sup>And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all?

<sup>29</sup>And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:

<sup>30</sup>And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

You can actually stop right there. I want you to notice. An Attorney asked him, what was the first commandment, he wasn't asking first in terms of numerical order that word first there is really saying foremost. He was saying, what is the foremost commandment in weight, what is first in weight. What is the weight here of the commandment. In other words, this man is trying to find out what is the most important commandment, which one is the one we really ought to regard first, which is the one we ought to make sure we take care of, you know, as if he was saying, if there was only one Lord that we really had to have, which one is it? Which one out of all the commandments, as you know it's over 600 laws and different things, ceremonial laws and purification laws – it's a lot of laws, you got a lot of different laws in the Bible. But they want to know, which one is it?

And so, Jesus lets them know to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, might, strength. Love your neighbor as yourself. And this love here in Mark 12 speaks of, when he says, live in God with your whole heart, it's talking about entire love, loving God with the entire being – with your entire being. Remember David said, he

loved God with his fingers, with his eyes, with his hands – he loved God with his soul he loved God with all of his might. So, when we say entire love, there's a strong love, speaks of with sincere love, and also speaks of a very intelligent love. You are using your mind, your reasoning, your rationing, your thinking.

We can love God even with our intellect. Some people are so smart that they have become fools because they are too smart to believe in God. And when you are too smart to believe in God, you have become a fool. And so, we are to love God, know God is a brilliant thinker, so you don't have to divorce your mind to love God. No, he wants you to love him with your mind, love him with your thoughts.

In fact, I believe God wants some people in his kingdom to do some brilliant thinking, some strategic thinking, some creative thinking. Well, you know, he doesn't want us, that's why the Bible says that the children of the world are wiser than the children of light, because sometimes, we don't think, we don't love God with our mind. Learn to think, turn to your neighbor and say – it's alright to think. It's alright to think. We should be strategic in terms of reaching the laws and sharing the gospel. Be a thinker, think God wants you to love him with your mind. And you have to put some thought into it. You've got to be strategic to share the gospel and to win the laws and to demonstrate the love of God in the earth today, keeping up with the times and the technology and the generation and this new generation that we have that don't quite know our language, you've got to be able to think to relate, to confer the gospel and the message in the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.

So we love God with our minds, with our thinking capacity, with our reasoning and all of our rationing. And also, flip over to Deuteronomy 6:5, and it reads, "And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." I love that from the Message Bible, the Message Bible says, "'Love God, your God, with your whole heart, love him with all that's in you, love him with all you've got."

I just love that and I told you a couple of weeks ago how I woke up one morning and those two words were just in front of me, the two words "whole heart" and I knew the lord was speaking to me about loving him with our whole heart. So I've been thinking about and studying and digging in to that ever since, "Loving God with Our Whole Heart". God doesn't want us to love him or serve him half heartedly.

You know we don't like people to serve us half heartedly – do we? No, when somebody is serving, you want them to give it everything that they have. You don't want any half hearted service. I remember brother – and I, we were at home depo, probably a month or a couple of months ago and we were renting some equipments so he could do some work here at the church and an older gentleman waited on us inside the store. And I want you to know that this gentleman, he was having

evidently, he must have been having a bad day, because he gave us some terrible service. I mean he was grumbling, he almost like – he didn't even want us there. You know, he did not only – not appreciated our business – he rather not had our business. Like we were just, you know, we were just getting on his last nerve, he was just so short – moody and grumbling and didn't want to serve. And so, I said – Wow, and I said, this guy's heart is not in his job. Now, he's doing the duty of his job, he's there, he's still on the clock, he's doing the duty of it but his heart isn't in it.

You know, and that's how we do God sometimes. A lot of times when you've been in the things that God for a long time, if you're not careful, you can start serving him out of duty instead of love. And you can end up going through the motions of duty and you're not serving and loving God from a hard motivated by love. So God never wants us to get to that place where we're just going through the motions, you know where we're just singing because I'm in the choir. You know, I've been to choir that's why I'm singing – no, that shouldn't be the reason you're singing. That shouldn't be the reason you're singing. No, and so if we're not careful you can serve God out of the sins of duty as opposed of out of a heart of love. And that's why he reminded me to love God, to serve God, to live for God with your whole heart.

You don't have to turn there, but in the Book of Genesis 17:1 God appeared to Abraham for the very first time. He said, "I'm the Lord God Almighty". He introduced himself, and he said, "Abraham, I want you to walk before me and I want you to be perfect." Well, when you study that word out perfect, you'll find in that definition whole heart. In other words you are saying, I want you to live for me with your whole heart Abraham. And he said if you'll do that, I'm going to cut covenant with you and I'm going to multiply your descendants and I'm going to bless you and I'm going to cause the nations of the earth to be – so God, he showed up and he cut this covenant, this agreement with Abraham but that's all he required.

He said, I'm God Almighty and I just want you to walk perfect. I just want you to walk wholeheartedly before me. Serve me with your whole heart. Love me with your whole heart. Love God, turn to your neighbor and say, Love God with your whole heart. He wants to be the center of our affection, the center of our joy, the center of our desire.

I like something that Rick Warren said. Rick Warren said, "Knowing and loving God is our greatest privilege and being known and loved is God's greatest pleasure". It's his pleasure and our privilege but when we operate the privilege we also enjoy the pleasure. And so I just love the fact that God wants us to love him with our whole heart.

Remember I read Hosea 6:6, you don't have to turn there but in the Living Bible it says, "I don't want your sacrifices, I want your love, I don't want your offering, I

want you to know me". And so God wants us to love him with our whole heart. I started thinking about keys – some of the keys to loving God with our whole heart. Some of the keys to loving God with our whole heart and I jotted down several I want to share with you.

The first couple of keys I actually got from the book of revelation. You don't have to turn that book of Revelation 2:4 and Jesus shows up and he speaks to John the revelator about the church of Ephesus, speaking to the church of Ephesus, and he says, I have some word against you; you have left your first love. See, they were serving God out of duty but they were no longer doing it out of love. They had lost that affection, they have lost that desire, and they lost their passion for God, so they were serving them out of duty. And Jesus has something against you all, you all have left your first love. And so, two things first and love—so here are two keys of loving God with all of our heart:

Number one – He wants to be first in our lives. Notice what he said, you left your first love. He wants to be first in our lives. He doesn't want us to put other things or other people in front of him, something I shared with you before what John Maxwell said, he said, "Give God the first part of everyday, give God the first day of every week, give God the first portion of your income, give God the first consideration in every decision, give God the first place in your life."

So God wants to be first. So make sure you make him first. Turn to your neighbor and say make him first. Keep him first, keep God first place in your life. First thing in the morning when you wake up, we should be excited about our relationship with God. As soon as we wake up in the morning. You know the best part about waking up is not Folgers in your cup, that's not the best part of waking up is that you can enjoy God. You can enjoy love on your heavenly father. As soon as your eyes open, that's the best part of waking up – enjoying our relationship with our creator.

Number two – now notice this, he says, I have somewhat against you, you've left your first love. So number one, we've got to keep him first. Number two, he wants us to maintain our strong affection for him. That's what he was speaking of, you all no longer have me first and you've lost your affection for me, that's what he's really saying. So he wants us to maintain a strong affection. So often, we allow so many other things to enter into our heart and they steal our affection. So our affection – Now don't get me wrong, we still love God, it's just that we have pushed him way back in our heart. We still love him but in priority, he's way back in there. Turn to your neighbor and say he's way back in there.

And so, other things come in and steal our affection. Now, Jesus warned us about this. Jesus was speaking about the heart and how you can allow things to creep into your heart that will choke out his word. And I believe the same three things that Jesus mentioned that can creep into your heart that choke up the word are the

same three things that can enter into your heart, to steal your affection where you no longer have God as your first affection, when you lose your affection for that strong intense affection and love for God.

Number one he says, the cares of this world – that will choke out your affection for God. The cares of this world – when you just saw burden down, you are so concerned and so worried, the cares of this world that will choke – you'll be more concerned about your cares than you are about God. And so the cares of this world can choke God out of your heart – can choke the affection of God out of your heart.

Number two, he said, the deceitfulness of riches. You can be so excited about making money, so excited over the prospects of a business deal or an opportunity, so excited, it can steal the affection of your heart. So, every morning when your eyes open, that's all you are thinking about. Oh, what am I going to make today? What am I going to do today to make this happen? I got a big deal, I can't wait to get started and so, notice it has slipped in and it has now stolen your affection. And so you are actually more excited in life over making money or making this deal happen or seeing this success. That has stolen the affection of your heart. I know what I'm talking about because this has happened to me several times.

I wrestle with that, you can get so excited over different business ventures or projects or investments or opportunities or deals and you are so excited about making it happen. If you are not careful, it can consume your life and steals the affection of your heart and it has now moved into first place. And so the moment your eyes open in the morning, oh you can't wait to get out and try to make more money. You're excited about the prospects of what's happening. Well, there's nothing wrong with that but you got to put it in its proper priority, putting it in its proper place. We can't allow those things to steal our affection from loving God with our whole heart.

And number three – Jesus said the lust of other things entering in. So Jesus said, other stuff getting into your heart. You know, it could be, I don't know, you could be falling in love with somebody or something. You know, other stuff can just be getting into your heart and it now consumes your mind, it consumes your affection and it has replaced your affection for God. So those are two things we get from Revelations 2:4.

Number one is – We must keep him first. We must work to keep God first place in our lives. Number two – Maintain a strong affection toward God – affection where you're loving God, where you'd never lose that intent strong love for God, loving God with your whole heart.

Well, here are some other keys that I thought about to help you to maintain the ability to love God with your whole heart.

Number three – is through “Constant conversation”. Turn to your neighbor and say, constant conversation. Constant conversation is one of the ways that you can love God. It helps you to love God with your whole heart. What I mean by that, we should have our set aside, regular times for being with God and you know, whether that’s 30 minutes or an hour or two hours, you know how ever you do it, you should have your set aside time where you are alone with God and you are just enjoying him and so forth.

But I believe God wants us to get to the places – where we don’t just leave him there. God wants to be involved in all of life. And so, we maintain that through constant conversation. And so now – this is what the Bible says in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, the Bible says pray without ceasing.

Now, it’s impossible to pray without ceasing if that literally means getting down on your knees and folding your hands and closing your eye. We cannot do that 24 hours, we just can’t. but I believe what it’s saying, is talking about constant conversation, just little short one sentence prayer is that you pray constantly throughout the day. So while you’re driving, you are able to talk to God. While you are in your coffee break at work, you are able to talk to God. While you are on your lunch break you just say, “God I just want you to know that you’re on my mind and I love you lord God – thank you for letting me have a good day. Thank you for my job God. Thank you for allowing me to be here in this place. Thank you for the beautiful sunshine. I’m just having a great day. I’m having a good time. Lord I just love...

So this is constant conversation. It’s constant conversation. Going to the grocery store, just walking into the grocery store – Lord God I just acknowledge you. Proverbs 3:6 says, “In all thy ways” notice what it says, “Not in some of your ways, not in a few of your ways – in all your ways acknowledge him, I all your ways – that’s talking about constant conversation – is keeping God right there. You are talking to him all the time. So going into the grocery store, you pushing the buggy and you say, Lord, I’m just thinking about you as I come in the grocery store. Lord I ask you to lead me. I acknowledge you.

You know how good it makes God feel to be acknowledged. We live our lives without acknowledging him. God is there all along but we never even say anything to him. We don’t acknowledge his presence. You know how that makes him feel – to go all day without talking to me. He’s standing there and we ignore him. God says, if you will acknowledge me – in all your ways acknowledge me and says – I will direct your path.

So all we’ve got to is say, God – in the grocery store – Lord I recognize your presence. You are here with me. You’re Almighty God, you’re El Shaddai, you are Elohim, you are Adonai, you’re the Lord God Almighty and I just recognize you for

being the all sufficient one for me. My needs Lord, and God I just pray Lord – I just acknowledge you – lead me to the best deals while I'm in here. Let me find the best sales Lord God. Show me the best section. Give me that best produce and the best selection. Help lead me and Father, by the way, while I'm here. If there's anybody that you want me to bump into that you might want me to pray for, that you might want me to bless, that you might want me to be good to, that you might want me to share your love with.

Constant conversation – when you carry on constant conversation with God, God can always get a message to you, got can always speak to you. God can always direct your steps. He can always get you to where you need to be. He can always get something over to you because you've been constantly conversating with him. So, through constant conversation, through constant conversation – that's one way that we love God with all of our hearts.

I heard Bishop Dale say this. He said that one day he was out and just talking to the lord and he said the Lord told him to go up to a woman, a complete stranger and just tell her that Jesus loves her. And Bishop Dale said, he was very hesitant about that because that sound is so elementary. It just sounded so elementary to walk up to somebody and say, you know, Jesus loves you. And he was kind of hesitant but because he had been in constant conversation, he just went on and obeyed God. And he just walked to the woman and he said, "Excuse me but I just want you to know that Jesus loves you."

He said the woman began to shed tears. She said, "I was suicidal" and I had prayed to God that if he really loves me to let me know some kind of way. See, through constant conversation, God was able to just get a message and he wants to use us all the time but because we haven't been conversating with him, he can't get a word in. Our hearts are so far from him. We're doing everything but we have forgotten about – always keep one and on God. Always keep constant conversation. It's one way that we love God, with our whole hearts.

Number four – we're running out of time so I got to hurry up, I've got to speed it up. Number four – Meditating on this word. That's one way that you can help yourself, train yourself to love God with your whole heart meditating on his word. You cannot love God unless you know him. You can't know him unless you know his word. So meditating on his word, listen to this, Psalms 119:97. One translation says, Oh how I love your law, I meditate on it all day long. Meditating on God's word, that's one way of loving God with your heart.

Number five – here's another key to loving God with your whole heart is to keep his word and obey his voice. Jesus put it this way, Jesus said – if you love me, you will keep my commandments. So if you keep his word. Jesus said that. He said, "If you love me, you'll keep my commandments. So if you keep his words and obey his voice,

now you're walking and loving God with your whole heart. If you keep his word and obey his voice.

Listen to this verse, Psalms 119:33, in one translation it says, Lord, just tell me what you want me to do and I will do it. As long as live, I will wholeheartedly obey. That's one of the things that God really wants us to do wholeheartedly, is to obey him. Obey him wholeheartedly. So keep his word, obey his voice.

Number six – here is something that helps us to love God with our whole heart and that is to value what God values. Care about what God cares about. When you value what God values and when you care about what God cares about, you are loving him with your whole heart. God values the lost. God values bringing help to those who are hurting, bringing healing. God values that. God values taking care of those who have had calamity that come into their lives or who are misfortune. God values when we take care of one another.

Value what God values. Care about what God cares about, that's one way you love God with your whole heart. I'm not going to take time to get into this but here are a couple of more things I found that God's word says that we should do with our whole heart.

Number seven – we should worship and praise him with our whole heart. We should worship and praise him with a whole heart. And number eight, we should seek him with a whole heart. Those are some of the things, some of the keys that I really found in the Bible about loving God with your whole hearts. Seeking him, obeying him, worshiping him, praying and you know, praising him, praying, all of these constant conversation, all of these are ways to help you to love God with your whole heart.

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