

Bible Study Questions

Above All, Love: The 'Who' and 'What' of Christian Love: "Love Your Neighbor as Yourself"

Focus

Jesus defines that which is most fundamental to God's law: love. In answering a question requesting one great command by providing two, Jesus intertwines love for God and love for neighbor in a way that, though distinct, they can't be separated.

Read

[Matthew 22:34-40](#)

Listen

CCNYC teaching on the sermon series, "*Above All, Love*", which can be found on our [website](#)

As you study this passage on your own or with a small group of others, here are some questions for study, reflection, and application.

Questions for Review

(The purpose of these opening questions is to review the passage that was recently preached on in order to make sure that everyone understands the basic structure, events, people, and point of the passage.)

1. Work through some basic review questions for this passage – for example:
 - What's the context? (Where are we in this book of the Bible; the New Testament; and the Bible as a whole?)
 - Who are the people and/or situations that this passage is addressing?
 - What clues are there about the author and his circumstances?
 - Is there a conflict or high point in this passage? (What is the structure of this passage that builds to that point?)
 - What was the main point or theme of this passage that was identified in Sunday's sermon?
 - What surprises are there in this passage?
2. What questions do you still have about this passage that you'd like to discuss?

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Questions for Reflection and Application

(The purpose of these reflection questions is to help each other not just understand what the passage is saying, but to think more deeply about what it means so that we can then accurately apply it to our lives today.)

1. Does it surprise you that love is commanded? What does that tell you about how the Bible conceives of love? What's the relationship between God's love and God's commandments?
2. What's the significance of Jesus answering the lawyer's question not by giving one commandment but two?
3. How has striving to love God with every fiber of your being helped you to love your neighbor as yourself?
4. How might you disciple a person who claims to love God but who doesn't seem to love other people very well? Why is love for neighbor so important?
5. How would you respond to the person who says, "Jesus is telling us we need to learn how to love ourselves first and then to love others?"
6. Work together as a group to think through ways that we as Christians, in our particular context, can unselfishly love our neighbors. Try to think through a variety of implications and applications related to this second command. For example:
 - How can we love our financially poor neighbors?
 - How can we love our neighbors in such a way that we help to meet physical and material needs?
 - How can we love our neighbors who don't yet know Christ and provide for their spiritual needs?
 - How can we love all people from all nations?
 - How can we love those we don't agree with politically?
 - How can we love the 'neighbors' in our church on a Sunday morning?
 - Sunday's sermon suggested that one way to love others as we love ourselves is to seek to do each other spiritual good, particularly those in

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our church. Did that application make sense to you? How might you go about applying that?

7. In what way does the gospel help you as you think about this passage? (What does the gospel teach you about love and what hope does it provide to you as you confront your lack of love?)

Ongoing questions to ask of any passage:

1. How does the gospel inform your understanding and application of this passage?
2. Has studying this passage in any way challenged your understanding about who God is and what He's like? If so, how so?
3. In light of studying this passage, is there any behavior or attitude that you need to personally address in your life? If so, how specifically will you address it?
4. How does this passage help you to love, trust, and worship Jesus more fully?