

Cultivate Relationships

Loving God, Matthew 22:34-40

#1 - What kind of “love” should we have for God?

Reference John 21:15-17

When Jesus told us that we are to love God, the kind of love he meant was that highest form of love. You probably love God less than He wants you to love Him. But, God is ready to meet you where you are and lead you to a deeper, more significant loving relationship. Let's go back to Matthew 22 to discover something else about this Great Commandment.

#2 - Love God With Our Whole Being

You're familiar with the term, “half-hearted?” God expects us not to be half-hearted in our love to Him. Jesus, in quoting Deuteronomy 6:5, tells us we are to love God with **all** our heart, with **all** our soul and with **all** our mind. Nothing half-hearted here.

To the Jewish people in Jesus' time, the heart meant **the person's most inner being**. We have an expression, “I love you deep down in my heart.” In both cases, it means that this is not a surface-type love, but one embraced deeply.

Then, Jesus said we are to love with all our soul, or, **with our emotional being**.

Lastly, Jesus said we are to love God with all our mind. This means our love is not simply emotionally driven but **is given by an act of our will, intellectually**.

While each of these parts of our being is mentioned, the emphasis means, **love to the uttermost degree**; with ‘all that is within’ us.

#3 - David's Example Of This Kind Of Love, Psalm 42:1-2

Does this illustrate the kind of love you have right now for God?