

# The Three Greatest Commandments

## Structure

### I. Two Greatest Commandments

- A. Love God with all your heart, mind, and strength [Deut 6:5]
- B. Love your neighbor as yourself [Lev 19:18]

### II. The New Commandment

- A. Love one another as I have loved you [John 15:12]

### III. Summary

- A. Love God
- B. Love the Church as Christ loves it
  - 1. Love brothers and sisters in Christ more than yourself
- C. Love your neighbor as yourself
  - 1. Love yourself
  - 2. Love everyone outside the Church as much as yourself

### IV. Critical Issue – What is Love?

# If You Keep My Commandments...

## John 15:9-17 [ESV]

<sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> **If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.** <sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. <sup>12</sup> **"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.** <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. <sup>17</sup> These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

# What Is It to Love God?

## 1 John 5:1-3 [ESV]

<sup>1</sup> Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. <sup>2</sup> **By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.** <sup>3</sup> **For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.**

# Loving the Church

## Paul's Framework

### I. Forgive One Another

A. Ephesians 4:32; Romans 14:13

### II. Accept One Another

A. Romans 16:16

### III. Care-for One Another

A. 1 Corinthians 12:25; 2 Corinthians 13:11

### IV. Encourage One Another

A. 1 Timothy 5:11

### V. Serve/Support One Another

A. Ephesians 4:2; Galatians 5:14

### VI. Submit to One Another

A. Ephesians 5:21

# New Testament Law

## Regulates Love

### I. Loving One Another

A. FACES – S

### II. Loving God

A. Obedience

B. Fear

C. XXXXX – S

1. God doesn't need "FACES"

a. God does not need our forgiveness, acceptance, care, encouragement, or support

2. Submission required!

# New Testament Law

## Old Testament Legal Implications

### I. Hating One Another

- A. The Antithesis of FACES – S

### II. Hating God

- A. Disobedience

- B. Not Fearing God

- C. FACES – X

- 1. Pagans believe that God needs “FACES”

- a. God does not need our forgiveness, acceptance, care, encouragement, or support

- i. The essence of idolatry/pagan worship

- 2. Will not submit themselves to God