

The HEART of the CHURCH: Part 3- Commanded

“THE MOST IMPORTANT THING ON EARTH IS WINNING LOST MEN TO JESUS. BUT THE WORLD WILL NEVER BE WON FOR CHRIST UNTIL THOSE ALREADY WON TO CHRIST ARE ONE IN CHRIST. VICTOR KNOWLES

Key Points from Past Weeks:

- The heart of the early church reveals that the early believers are **united with Christ** and **united with one another**.
- A clear **mission and vision** are **healthy expressions of unity**
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Westway Christian Church Exists: To help our neighbors find their way back to God.

We want others to:

- Know the way back with God- be connected with Him through His word, through prayers, through His bride
- Know that we are their good neighbors, ready to help them when the need arises.
- The **GREAT COMMISSION** deserves a **GREAT COMMITMENT**.

Today's Key Point:

Matthew 22:37-40

³⁷ Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. **[a]** ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ **[b]** ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Footnotes: A. Matthew 22:37 Deut. 6:5 B. Matthew 22:39 Lev. 19:18

“Everything else in the Old Testament in some sense depends on these two commandments: the commandment to love God and the commandment to love our neighbor. **John Piper**

“The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” **(Mark 12:28–31)**

One of the most widely-read Jewish Bible translations now renders Deuteronomy 6:4 as: **“The LORD is our God, the LORD alone”** rather than **“The LORD our God, the LORD is one.”** It does so because in recent decades, scholars have come to believe that the original, ancient sense of echad in this verse was more likely to be “alone” than “one.”

If the Lord alone is our God, and we worship no other gods, we can love him with all of our heart and soul and strength. The two sentences together become one commandment, the greatest in fact—to love the Lord your God.

The Hebrew word for love, ahavah, means “to act lovingly toward” or “to be loyal to.” God isn’t commanding a feeling but rather action and loyalty. It’s nice to have feelings of love toward God, but it’s likely you will need to act your way into these feelings of love before you will feel your way into the actions of love. Before we can deeply love our neighbors as ourselves, we need to learn to love God with our lives. And the way to love him is to obey him. Tverberg suggested a modern translation of the Shema and first commandment with this rendering: “Listen up, Israel—The LORD is your God, he, and he alone!! You should love him with every thought that you think, live every hour of every day for him, be willing to sacrifice your life for him. Love him with every penny in your wallet and everything that you’ve got!”

A- If you are devoted, then you will be committed.

Loving God is the key to obedience and commitment.

B- If you are devoted, it will be manifested.

Love- words, time, gifts, service, touch

For you to be committed, you have to be devoted. If you truly are devoted, it will be manifested.