

First Things First

1 John 4:19

We love Him because He first loved us.

When you put your faith in Jesus and acknowledged Him as the Lord or “ruler” of your life, you put yourself on a path of obedience and discipleship (learning to follow Him). As a believer, you may already be confronted with the fact that the Bible contains hundreds of different commands, mandates, and prohibitions. As we have mentioned, God’s commands and His desire to see us free from sin (whether we sin by disobedience or sin by lack of obedience) stems from His desire to see us free from the effects of death which sin causes. Your choice to follow Jesus will have an effect on virtually every area of your life, and we will consider these areas as we go along. Your choice to follow Him and obey Him will also introduce many challenges and obstacles... the least of which is figuring out where you go from here!

Your first steps in the Lord are your most important steps, believe it or not. Experts tell us that children have already formulated the majority of their character by the time they are 5 or 6 years old. Spiritual growth is no different. You will formulate a view of God... whether good or bad... in the first 4 or 5 years of your Christian life. That view will determine a lot about your vision of God’s high call for your life and the vision of why you are alive on planet earth. One of the reasons why Christians can stop growing in the Lord or stagnate and get burnt out in the race of faith is because they were not birthed properly or subsequently nurtured in the right aspects of the faith. When they later on become disappointed with God or possibly offended or hurt by other Christians, they are easily knocked out of the race. Knowing the FIRST principles is very important to maturity and growth as a follower of Jesus. As you will probably soon discover, there are literally hundreds of different “areas” of Christian faith that you can study and learn about. Even Christians themselves have “favorite” areas of doctrine or certain commands that they think will be very important for you to study or begin doing.

It *is* very important that you begin to participate and cooperate with the Holy Spirit in identifying areas of sin in your life, changing your mind about those areas, asking for grace and forgiveness, and then renouncing those old ways so that you can begin to live in the new life of the Spirit in those areas. However, the Holy Spirit is more than likely only going to focus on one or two areas of sin in your life at a time... mainly because we as humans just can’t handle much more than that. Just as children do not become adults overnight, the spiritually young in the Lord do not become spiritual giants over night either. Many Christians, with seemingly good intentions, may want you to change many areas of your life so that you can conform to their idea of what is a “good Christian”. The most important thing for you to do right now, however, is to read and meditate on the Bible and discover what the Holy Spirit is focusing on specifically. As the Lord speaks to your heart about an area, set your mind, will, and emotions to be changed in that area so that you can obey His leading.

As you begin to read and meditate on the Scriptures more and more, you will begin to realize that God says a lot about how we are to live. Just the commandments and admonitions that are found in the Bible can alone be overwhelming to think about as you try to put them into practice. The commandments of the Bible are in fact a “mirror” in some ways by which we can identify those areas of sin in our life that we need to change. Remember as well, the Holy Spirit will use the

Bible more than any other tool in your spiritual growth to conform you to the image of the Son of God. God's commandments are designed to be clear guideposts to righteousness (right living) and holiness (living as a special possession that belongs to God).



What commands (or commandments) in the Bible are you already familiar with?
What commands are you aware of that you have broken or disobeyed?
Do you think there are commands you have broken that you are not even aware of?
What do you think the most important command in the Bible is?

Exodus 20:1-17

And God spoke all these words, saying: 2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 You shall have no other gods before Me. 4 You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. 7 You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain. 8 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it. 12 Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you. 13 You shall not murder. 14 You shall not commit adultery. 15 You shall not steal. 16 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. 17 You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

Romans 3:22-24

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Jesus the Messiah,

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus the Messiah, our Lord.

The first five books of the Bible are called the "Pentateuch". They contain the history of creation and the forming of the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob into a nation that God chose for His special purposes: Israel. These 5 books are also some times referred to as "the Law" or "the Torah". God recorded many laws, commands, admonitions, prohibitions, precepts, and statutes in the Torah—all revealing His moral character and also revealing His heart toward humans in how we are to treat Him (in love) and treat each other (in love). The most famous or well know laws from the Torah are called the "10 Commandments". Many of you may have seen a movie about Moses and the giving of the law. Most of us have heard in the news about the controversy over displaying the ten Commandments in governmental buildings in the United States. For all of us,

however, reading the Ten Commandments and understanding their intent can certainly make us feel uncomfortable. They make us feel uncomfortable especially when we realize that we may have broken most if not all of them at some point in our life. When we combine that with what the cost of breaking even one of those laws is (death or separation from God), the conclusions can be scary! The message of salvation in Jesus begins with the fact that we have all fallen short of God's standard of righteousness (we've all broken His laws and commands) and we are in need of someone to pay the price for our sins: in short, we cannot save ourselves and we need a redeemer!

Deuteronomy 11:1, 22-24

Therefore you shall love the LORD your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always. ... "For if you carefully keep all these commandments which I command you to do--to love the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him-- then the LORD will drive out all these nations from before you, and you will dispossess greater and mightier nations than yourselves.

The Book of Deuteronomy is part of the Hebrew Scriptures that also describes the giving of God's **law** to Moses and the nation of Israel. It is significant that even in the giving of the **law**, *love* for God was preeminent or first on God's mind. You should know that the "Old" testament can be used to declare the Gospel (good news about Messiah) almost as effectively as the "New" testament. It all just depends on how you read it! Many people read the Old Testament and only see "law", without ever discerning God's heart. However, the "scriptures" that the early church and the apostles used to preach about the Messiah *were* the Hebrew Scriptures (the Law, the Prophets, the Writings: Genesis to Malachi). The same Holy Spirit who inspired the apostles to write the New Testament also inspired the prophets who wrote the Hebrew Scriptures. In either case, Scripture was breathed by God to point to the person and the work of Messiah—Jesus! God told Moses in Deuteronomy 11 that if the children of Israel would carefully keep ALL these commandments which He commanded them to do—certain things would happen. What was the very FIRST command on the list?

To LOVE the LORD your God... (Deut 11:22)

Do you also notice WHY God wanted them to love Him (first) AND obey His commands (second)? What did God want to do for the nation of Israel if they would just love and obey Him (v 24)?

Now let's think about how this applies to you personally. Do you have "enemies" in your life that are "greater" or "mightier" than you or your power? If we are honest with ourselves, we all have such enemies to some degree or another. One thing we need to realize is that people are not our enemies... but rather our own flesh, the kingdom of darkness, and the *ways* of this world are all against us and against our growth as mature lovers of God. Some people have uncontrollable rage and anger, uncontrollable eating habits, uncontrollable spending habits, uncontrollable tongues, uncontrollable lust, uncontrollable bitterness, uncontrolled resentment, uncontrollable jealousy and greed, and so on and so on. The point is that God WANTS us to love Him so that He can destroy and drive out all of these enemies before us so that we can possess all the promises of God that He has made to us. Rage, anger, malice, lust, greed, addictions, hatred, and bitterness (just to name a few) will ultimately kill us (physically and spiritually) and destroy our lives! God wants to drive out and kill the very things that would kill and destroy us if we were left alone to ourselves and to our sins.

1 John 3:8

He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

1 Peter 2:24-25

Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed. 25 For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

We all have areas of weakness that we have yielded to in our lives. God wants to see you have victory over every area of darkness that would lay claim over you. It was for freedom's sake that Jesus died on the cross. Whose freedom is spoken of? Your freedom! It was for your absolute freedom from every work of darkness and every work of the enemy that God took on the form of a man, came to the earth as a humble servant, and took upon Himself your sins on the tree. God was manifested in the "flesh" (He became a man) so that He would destroy every evil work and activity of the devil of those who are of the "flesh": human beings like you and I.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. 6 And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:4 is known as the "Shema" because it is the Hebrew word for *hear* ("Hear O Israel" is "Shema Israel"). The Shema is considered the centerpiece of God's law that was given to Israel and as a result is a centerpiece of the faith that we have as believers and disciples of the Messiah, Jesus. The Shema was, and still is today, very important in Jewish culture: it is normally the first memory verse children in religiously Jewish homes learn. When we see ourselves as "God's people" in these verses, we notice that God commands *us* to diligently teach these *particular* words to our children, to put *these* words in conspicuous places in our homes, to talk about *these* words in everyday conversation, and to keep *these* words at the forefront of EVERY day to day activity that we perform.

What subjects of Deuteronomy 6:4-5 make it so important?

When the LORD says that He is "one" (v 4), He is actually revealing something about Himself. He is revealing something about His nature and His *image*. The Hebrew word for "one" is *echad* and it in essence means a *plural* unity. The word *echad* (or one) describes a "more than" oneness as opposed to an "only" oneness. Imagine that! This matches perfectly what other Hebrew scriptures describes God as being like as well. The Messiah would later describe God as being a Father, Son, and Spirit who is One God. Do you see that this is part of God's image and God's nature?

Notice what follows in v5 after God's revelation about Himself in Deuteronomy 6:4



We are commanded to love God with:

- 1) All of our _____
- 2) All of our _____
- 3) All of our _____

The heart, soul, and strength of a person correspond to our spirit, soul, and body. This is nothing less than the ENTIRE makeup of what constitutes a human being. It includes our mind, our will, our emotions, our spiritual being, our physical strength: EVERYTHING WE ARE! God did not leave anything out of the mix did He? I hope you see the connection here. God first wants us to KNOW Him and about His image ("Hear O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one"). Then God wants us to respond to that revelation by LOVING Him (Love the LORD your God...) and then OBEYING Him.

Matthew 22:34-40

But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" 37 Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Did you know that there are 613 commands in the Hebrew Scriptures? 248 laws command things to be done (imperatives) and 365 laws prohibit certain activities. For many people, being a Christian is almost synonymous with the obeying of *certain* commandments. For the religious leaders of the Jewish community in the days of the Messiah, the understanding and explanation of these laws was very important. In fact, teachers and religious leaders would often prioritize laws to know which one took precedence over another if there was a conflict between them. For example, the law of the Sabbath said not to do any work and another law said to take care of your animals... but what if your sheep fell into a hole and it required "work" to pull the sheep out? What law would take precedence? (see Matthew 12:10-12 for the answer!) These kinds of questions were very common among those who studied the Scriptures as a primary occupation (like the scribes, the Pharisees, and the Sadducees). When the Pharisees (the most expert teachers of the Law of Moses and the Hebrew Scriptures) asked Jesus what the greatest commandment was, what was His response? **The Shema... Deuteronomy 6:4!**

This is the verse that Jesus quoted from the Hebrew Bible (the only Bible of His day) and said, "This is the first and greatest commandment". Does it surprise you that Jesus did not quote one of the Ten Commandments? Why do you think the greatest command would not have been "Have no other God's before me?" Is it possible that the we could have no other "gods" to choose from (and thereby fulfill the command to not worship idols) but yet still not love God?

The Shema was FIRST because it is preeminent to ALL other commands. It is also GREAT because it speaks about why you and I were made and put on planet earth: to discover who God is and learn to love Him voluntarily!

What you need to realize is that God's first *command* to you is that you learn to love Him and that you learn to see yourself as a person who loves God. If you spend all your initial energy as a believer simply trying to obey His commands, you will most likely find yourself quickly in

condemnation because you are not able to live up to all of them at once. If your identity as a Christian becomes based on what commands you obey and what acts of service you do, then you may lose your identity if you ever wake up one day and don't feel like doing His commandments or feel like serving! However, if you will spend your energy learning how to love God and how to let God love you, then obedience *will* come about.

It is an immutable or unchanging law that when we grow in our love for God (which is something that comes from our heart), then our ability to obey God and live for Him will grow at the same time!



**If loving God is voluntary, why do you think God “commanded” us to love Him?
What kind of people are concerned about keeping God’s commands anyway?**

John 14:15-18

If you love Me, keep My commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever-- 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

Notice that Jesus told His disciples, “If you love Me, THEN keep my commandments...” You can almost rest assured that God never expects anyone to obey Him who does not FIRST love Him. Don't get me wrong: God *does* want people to obey Him! However, He knows that they really can't obey Him fully without getting to know Him in truth and loving Him first.



**What are two things that characterize people to whom the Holy Spirit is given?
What is the relationship of the “world” to the person of the Holy Spirit?**

In John 14, Jesus does describe His activity and the activity of the Holy Spirit toward a person that *loves* Him. John 14:16-17 tells us that Jesus was sending the Holy Spirit to those who *love* Him and who would keep His commands as a result of that love. The world is defined as those who cannot *receive* the Spirit of God, cannot *see* the Spirit of God, and cannot *know* the Spirit of God. Notice that Jesus relates loving Him to obeying His commands and to receiving the INDWELLING Spirit of God. Jesus said that because of His presence with the disciples, the Spirit of God “dwelled” WITH them. He then said that the Holy Spirit would be “dwelling” IN them, speaking to the relationship of the Spirit with the disciples after His crucifixion and resurrection. You may not understand all there is to now about the Holy Spirit right now, but just know that the Holy Spirit is “another” Helper given to live with and in you—just because you love Jesus. God's commands are directed to those who love Him, just like the Holy Spirit comes to live in those who have said “yes” to Jesus and love Him. It is through the Holy Spirit's activity in our hearts that we begin to want to obey God and not to obey sin any longer. As we partner with the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, He will transform us over time to be holy, righteous, lovers of God—just like Jesus.

John 14:19-24

A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. 20 At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. 21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him,

"Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?" 23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. 24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.

Jesus also made a similar statement in John 14:23 as that recorded by Moses in Deuteronomy 11 (God was speaking in that instance as well). In the case of Moses, God promised that He would drive out all the enemies of Israel if they would love Him and obey Him. What does Jesus promise His disciples who love Him and obey Him (keep His Word) as a result? Not only does God promise to drive out OUR enemies like He promised Moses and the children of Israel, but our love for God allows Him the opportunity to manifest Himself to us!

Jesus said that His Father would love you *because* you loved Jesus and that *they* would come and make their home or dwelling in you. Think about the incredible nature of this statement! The Creator of the universe has offered to come and make a dwelling place in us—all because we have said a simple "yes" to His Son, Jesus. The Father, Son, and Spirit desire to take up residence and build a home in us. Of all the places in the universe or in the spiritual realm where God could dwell, He tells us that human beings were designed in a way so that the very Creator can take up residence in us. This is hard for our minds to understand and even for our faith to accept, but God really does want to make a dwelling place in your heart. This is no religion... this is not a set of precepts that we live by. This is all about the Creator coming to take up residence in us! You don't have to be rich, famous, or important: your love for Jesus and your willingness to obey Him (voluntarily) because you love Him is what allows this home to be formed in you.

John 14:31

But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here.



Can a person obey God or obey His commands without loving Him?

Can a person love God without obeying Him or obeying His commands?

Jesus indicated that He had demonstrated two things to the world by His life and that His imminent crucifixion would be based on these (John 14:31):

- 1) He had _____ the Father
- 2) As the Father gave Him _____, He did them

Jesus was the perfect demonstration or model of what a life of love to God looks like. He demonstrated how fully He loved His Father by obeying Him... even obeying the Father's command for Him to go to Jerusalem knowing that He was to be crucified. The crucifixion and passion of Jesus for our redemption is the greatest demonstration of love and obedience to God we can ever imagine. You will learn as you study Scripture more that it was also Jesus' love for YOU and I that led Him to the tree as well.

Philippians 2:9-11

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of

those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Many people can obey God or even obey Biblical precepts without ever loving God or acknowledging Jesus as *their* Lord. In fact many religions around the world have systems of lifestyle and belief that cause people to demonstrate some degree of love for other humans and to live moral lives. Other religions, however, do not acknowledge that Jesus is the only way for us to be reconciled to God or that He is the only way to God. Other religions are missing the element of truth that comes from God's Word alone. For those who love Jesus, we know that He is THE way, THE truth, and THE life ... THE only way that we have access to the Father (John 10:10). Acknowledging the truth of the Word is a key part of loving God with all of our soul—which includes our minds and intellect. When you believe what the Bible says... even if you do not have absolute proof or evidence or even if you do not feel the truth of it immediately... you are loving God with your mind! Loving God with all of our mind begins with formulating a right view of God and a right view of how God views us in redemption. You cannot love or obey a God that you believe to be angry, mad, or disappointed with you *most* of the time.

Paul made it clear to the believers in Philippi that one day mandatory obedience will be enforced to all of creation. In other words, those in heaven, those on earth, and those under earth will one day acknowledge by bowing of the knee that Jesus is the Lord of all and that He is God's Messiah. There will be NO choice to this. They will bow their knee. Everyone! No one will be excluded. However, right now, obedience to God is not mandatory. Believe it or not, the 6000 years of human history that has transpired has been based on a simple principle that God has ordained in His sovereignty (His full power to control all of creation): human beings have a choice whether to love God or obey Him, and there choice carries eternal consequences that are real. You can be sure that there is an inseparable link between obeying God and loving God.

1 John 5:3-5

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. 4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. 5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 John 2:3-6

Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. 6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.



What does it mean that God's commands are not burdensome?
If you are to be an overcomer, what must you believe?
How can you "know that you know" God?

Many new believers can be intimidated by the words of the Apostle John. By the way, He was most likely the youngest of the disciples (maybe 18-20 when Jesus called him) and was known as the "disciple of love". Of course John wrote His letters (including the book of Revelation) later in life. We will study more about John's view of the Lord—which is one of the clearest expositions of

the deity of Jesus in the New Testament—and also consider some of the “heresies” that he dealt with through these writings. One of those heresies, known as “Gnosticism”, was a belief system that many people were adopting during the latter period of his life (70-90 AD). When John told people that whoever “knows Him (Jesus)” keeps His commandments, He was addressing Gnostic heresy. The Gnostics, among other things, believed that people could literally “sin” with their body without having any effect on their relationship with God. They believed that because the body was “bad” by nature and that anything “spiritual” was good, they reduced belief in Jesus to something that did not require obedience to His commandments! Could you imagine such a belief? We actually have similar beliefs in existence today, but they are called by different names and are part of other false belief systems. Either way, John was directing many of his statements (such as those in the book of 1 John) to those who had fallen prey to this destructive heresy. The reason I mention this is because I remember my early days with the Lord... I had such an intense love for Jesus and an intense desire to really want to please Him. However, I had many areas of darkness that I soon found did not go away overnight. I would read John’s statement about knowing God and keeping His commands—that those who don’t keep them are “liars”. I would often condemn myself because I knew that I did not have victory over certain areas of darkness in my life—yet I desperately wanted to.

What I want to encourage you with this as we leave this lesson, is that John was talking to people who did not WANT to be free from sin or did not WANT to follow God’s commands. John was talking to people who were being influenced spiritually by others who essentially did not love God. They may have loved philosophy or intellectual pursuits about God or theological discussions about spirituality... but ultimately, Gnostics did not *love* God. John was addressing people who might believe that they could sin and not follow God’s commandments because they had some deeper understanding of “spirituality”. I had no such ideas in my early days with the Lord! I knew that my sins separated me from God and I knew that God wanted me to renounce them and be free from them. I knew that in my heart, I wanted to be free from sin, I wanted to repent, I wanted to stop doing certain things, I wanted to stop thinking certain thoughts. I would read these passages from 1 John (and other parts of the Bible), however, and walk away feeling condemned before God... feeling like a “liar” because I knew that I was not measuring up still in so many areas.

I want to make it clear to you that there is a vast difference between someone who sincerely loves God and wants to be free from their sin and someone who is living in rebellion against God. We will look at this difference as well during our study. If the devil can convince you that you are not really a sincere lover of God, then he can cause you to lose any hope that God is on your side and that God is committed to your victory. The enemy can cause your growth to be “stunted” just by convincing you that you don’t really love God, that you really didn’t give your heart to Jesus, and that you are just a “church-going hypocrite” like everyone else. If you *are* playing with God, then you *do* need to repent, no doubt. But if you are someone who is sincere with God in wanting to live for Him and to really be free from sin, then John’s words are not meant to condemn you. They are actually meant to “reaffirm” you! He says that if you are “born of God”, you WILL overcome the world.. you will overcome sin... and you will overcome the devil. But you must continue on... you can’t fall and never get back up or fall and run away from God. God’s great love for us is what *causes* us to love Him... His love is what *causes* us to want to obey Him voluntarily.. and ultimately, His great love is what will bring us absolute victory over every enemy in our life.

We must understand that “to know God” is “to love God”... obedience is the fruit of a tree that is rooted in love for God. If we ever hope to keep His commandments, we must start by learning to love God with all of our heart, soul, and strength.

Questions

1. To whom are the first 3 commandments in the "ten commandments" directed to?
 _____ To whom are the last 7 commandments directed to?
 _____ (Exodus 20:1-7)
2. The first and greatest commandment tells us to love God with what: (Deut 6:4/Matthew 22:37)
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
3. To whom is the first and greatest commandment directed to? _____
 To whom is the second commandment directed to? _____ (Matthew 22:36-37)
4. What tool will the Holy Spirit use more than any other tool to form you and mold you into the image of Jesus? _____
5. True or False. You can bow your knee and declare that Jesus is "Lord" without *loving* Him or *wanting* to obey Him. (Philippians 2:9-11)
6. Why did God want the children of Israel to love Him and obey His commands?
 _____ (Deuteronomy 11:1, 22-24)
7. Why did Jesus want His disciples to love Him and obey His commands?
 _____ (John 14:23).
8. If we want to overcome and have spiritual victory, we must believe that Jesus is the
 _____ . (John 5:40).
9. Jesus summarized the 248 imperatives and 365 prohibitions found in the Law of Moses into two commands. What are they in order? (Matthew 22:36-37)
 - 1)
 - 2)
10. True or False. A person who has no desire to turn from their sin or obey God's commandments does not love God. (1 John 2:3-5, John 14:15,19)
11. Which one *should* come first, obedience to God or love for God? _____
12. What characterizes the people that the Holy Spirit is given to?
 _____ (John 14:15-18)
13. What was the greatest act of love and obedience that Jesus showed to the world and to those who would be His followers (disciples)? _____ (John 14:31)
14. Loving God with all of our _____ begins with formulating a right view of God and a right view of how God views us in redemption.