

18. What is the love required of us according to *John 17:26*?

**Reflection Questions:** Am I near God's kingdom but not yet in it? What will it take to get me there? How do I know that I love God as I should? What kind of love am I showing my neighbor? Where can I improve in this?

How can we pray for one another and our church this week?

#### Quotes to Ponder

*Love for God is the foundation of the Christian life, it is the defining characteristic identifying a true believer.*

John MacArthur

*We do not really progress in the Christian life until we understand that we are to love God simply because He is lovely and wonderful, worthy of every creature's unqualified affection.*

R.C. Sproul

*Those who truly love God will also love those created in His image.*

Mark L. Strauss

*Love is our inner commitment to God that is expressed in all our conduct and relationships. Those who do not show love to others can hardly claim to love God.*

David E. Garland

*It doesn't take much of a man to be a believer,  
but it takes all there is of him.*

R. Kent Hughes

*If a man thinks deeply he thinks religiously.*

Samuel Johnson



Not Far

*Sermon*  
*Notes*

April 7, 2024

1. The Question (28)

2. The Answer (29-31)

A. Love God

B. Love Neighbors

3. The Response (32-33)

4. The Result (34)

1. What in the text/sermon impacted you? Encouraged you? Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you? Comforted you?

2. Read the following accounts, noting what you learn from each. Are there any contradictions? If so, how do you resolve them?  
*Matthew 22:34-40* —

*Mark 12:28-34* —

3. What does this passage (*Mark 12:28-34*) tell us about God?

4. Why are these commandments (*Mark 12:28-31*)?

5. What is unique about this scribe compared to the past confrontations (*Mark 12:28, 32, 34*)?

6. Why does Jesus add to love God *with all your mind* when it isn't in the text He quotes (*Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Mark 12:30*)?

7. What does it mean to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength (*Mark 12:29*)?

8. What does it mean to *love our neighbor as yourself* (*Mark 12:31*)?

9. Who is our neighbor? Use Scripture.

10. Why is there *no commandment greater than these* (*Mark 12:28-31*)?

11. What is meant when the scribe says, *to love Him...is much more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices* (*Mark 12:33*)?

12. What do the following verses teach us?

*1 Samuel 15:22* —

*Jeremiah 6:20* —

*Psalms 40:6-7* —

*Jeremiah 7:21-23* —

*Psalms 51:16-17* —

*Hosea 6:6* —

*Isaiah 1:10-17* —

*Micah 6:6-8* —

13. How do you think people responded to Jesus' statement that this scribe was *not far from the kingdom of God* (*Mark 12:34*)?

14. What makes this scribe *not far from the kingdom of God* (*Mark 12:34*)?

What would get him into the kingdom of God?

15. What was it about this interaction that caused people to stop asking Jesus questions (*Mark 12:34*)?

16. How do these two commands (*Mark 12:28-31*) summarize the 10 Commandments (*Exodus 20:1-17*)?

17. Since love is commanded of us, what does this tell us?