

**THE GREAT COMMISSION EXECUTED IN THE SPIRIT
OF THE GREAT COMMANDMENT**

Matthew 22:36-40

Introduction:

- 1) One of my trades prior to ministry was a brick mason.
- 2) I learned the house's foundation was the key to a good house.
- 3) What God has lain on my heart is to teach you how to have a strong, structured, Biblical foundation on which God can use you to build His church.
- 4) We can know the Great Commission, but if it's not carried out in the spirit of the Great Commandment, we lose.
- 5) (vv. 24-26) The background of our text was Jesus teaching, and He was interrupted by a smart aleck lawyer who posed a plotted question.
 - a. Have you ever heard that there are no foolish questions?
 - b. II Timothy 2:23 – ***But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they breed strifes.***

I. (vv. 37-38) **WHAT IS THE FIRST COMMANDMENT?**

1. We are to love God with every fiber of our being.
2. Exodus 20:3 – ***Thou shall have no other gods before Me.***
3. Exodus 34:14 – ***For you shall worship no other god; for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.***
4. Jeremiah 29:13 – ***And you shall seek Me, and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.***
5. I John 4:20-21 – ***If a man says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he that doesn't love his brother, whom he has seen, how can he love God, whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him, that he who loves God loves his brother also.***
6. Revelation 2:4-5 – ***Nevertheless, I have somewhat against you, because you have left your first love. Remember, therefore, from where you are fallen, and repent, and do the first works or else I will come unto you quickly, and will remove your lampstand out of its place, except you repent.***

II. (vv. 39) **WHAT IS THE SECOND COMMANDMENT?**

1. Love your neighbor with every fiber of our being.
2. Our neighbor is anyone who crosses our path.
3. Luke 10:29, 36-37 – ***But he desiring to justify himself, said unto Jesus, and who is my neighbor? . . . Which, now, of these three, do you think was a neighbor unto him who fell among thieves? And he said, he that showed mercy on him. Then Jesus said unto him, Go and do likewise.***
4. Matthew 5:43-44, 46 – ***You have heard that it has been said, you shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy; but I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them who despitefully use you, and persecute you. . . For if you love them who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?***
5. I've never met anyone who loved Jesus, who didn't love their neighbor.
6. Romans 12:18 – ***If it be possible, as much as lies in you, live peaceably with all men.***

Conclusion:

What is the weight of these 2 commandments? (v. 40)

- 1) All of God's laws are based on these two commandments.
 - a. You don't break the commandments of God; but disobey them, and they break you.
 - b. The Word of God and laws of God are unchangeable & unmovable.
- 2) All the prophets' messages revolved around loving God & loving others.
 - a. I Corinthians 13:1 – ***Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass or tinkling cymbal.***
 - b. John 13:35 – ***By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love one to another.***