



**“Jesus declared, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and the greatest commandment.”  
Matt 22:37-38**

**“Jesus declared, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and the greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “Love your neighbour as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments”<sup>1</sup>**

Having considered some of the basic Instructions of the Lord, it is appropriate to examine the Principles on which they are based, and by which they should be implemented, and learn their interconnectedness. It is disturbing to see how human beings scheme to fault and bring down people who are trying to do what is right, using the cloak of the law, or religion as is the case of the Pharisees and the Jewish leaders in the time of Jesus Christ. Such people will often present as innocent and concerned about a lofty cause, but their real intention is to find fault and discredit a good work. Ordinarily, to ask about the most important command that God required His people to keep would be seen as a worthy cause, but that will be so only to the undiscerning mind. This approach was cleverly used by the devil to bring the catastrophe that has become the challenge and destruction of the human race.<sup>2</sup> The seed of DISOBEDIENCE and rebellion sown into human beings since that first incident of the Fall in the Garden of Eden, has persisted through the generations, with greater and devastating multiplier effect with every generation.<sup>3</sup> Jesus, being God and full of wisdom, always beat His detractors in their game, using every temptation as a teaching moment of the Word and Truth of God. The Scripture says, **“And when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they themselves gathered together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested Him with a question: “Teacher, which commandment is the greatest in the Law?”<sup>4</sup>** So, the people asked about one commandment, Jesus gave them Two, the second pinning and pointing them to their life of hypocrisy. The Instructions and Commandments of God are borne out of His genuine love for humanity, and obedience brings humanity the benefits.<sup>5</sup> But as we severally learnt in the last few weeks people prefer lavish sacrifices to obedience, thereby bringing condemnation upon themselves. God’s nature is love, and He cannot do anything that is contrary to His nature.<sup>6</sup> Part of this nature was inputted into human beings in their original state, as they were made in the Image and Likeness of God.<sup>7</sup> This design is still the desire of God, hence He sent Jesus Christ to redeem and restore human beings to that original estate.<sup>8</sup> All who believe and accept this redemptive work are given the power and ability to live in this nature of love,<sup>9</sup> even if only to a limited extent, and this limited extent is only because of the continuous challenge of the flesh which the devil is very good at manipulating.<sup>10</sup>

**“Jesus declared, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and the greatest commandment.”** I had the privilege of learning about the Aboriginal Peoples Seven Grandfathers’ Teaching recently, and was amazed to note that Love was depicted with the Eagle, which makes love the highest of the virtues of this Teaching. The Eagle scales the heights of the sky and has nothing to do with the lower levels where there are many dangers, and so enjoys safety and other pleasures, which other birds and animals do not enjoy.<sup>11</sup> This is partly the idea of the **Love for God that we are commanded to Practice. The Almighty God should be the first consideration in every aspect of our life! And if we love God in this dimension, then we quickly find that we also must love our fellow human beings.** This is the reason that Jesus added the Second greatest command, **“Love your neighbour as yourself.”** What a different place the world would have been had human beings obeyed and truly Loved God, and loved their fellow human beings as God commanded, a teaching which is also found in the Seven Grandfathers teaching of the Aboriginal Peoples. **All the darkness of pains, corruption, and evils, will not be known among human beings, yet we will not believe and obey the Word of God. This is the height of self-harm!**<sup>12</sup> *But this tragedy would have been greatly mitigated if those of us who call ourselves Christians lived true to our profession.* Apostle Paul lamented this contradiction, as he challenged the Jews who were given the Commandments of God to live true to them, and to stop bringing reproach to the Name of the Almighty God.<sup>13</sup> *The same should be shouted to believers and the churches of God today. So, Jesus, not only taught the Pharisees, but also His own disciples this principle of Love. In fact, He made love for one another the singular sign of their being His disciples. “A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.”<sup>14</sup>* Not titles, not positions, not material possessions, not denominational affiliation, but love for one another. *This Christ and Love’s distinctiveness is possible if only believers will live obedient lives, and stop following the trends of the world, which they are required to change for the good.* The early church, even in the midst of persecution lived this distinctiveness, and that is how the name ‘Christian’ came into being.<sup>15</sup> **What has gone wrong with the theology or lack of theology of the Church, one may ask? Why have believers stubbornly refused to obey and follow in the steps of their Master, the early disciples and the early Church? It is therefore necessary to remind ourselves of some of the Principles by which God wants us to live on this side of eternity, if we want to live with Him on the other side of eternity, starting with Love.**<sup>16</sup>

***Have A God Centred And Focussed 2026.***

**Further & Daily Readings: Matt.22:23-40; Jn 3:14-21. 1. Matt.22:37-40; 2. Gen.3; 3. Gen.6:5; 2Tim.3:1-9,13; 4. Matt.22:34-36; 5. Deut.10:13; 1Jn.5:3-4; 6. 2Tim.2:13; 1Jn.4:8,16; 7. Gen.1:26-27; 8. Rom.5:8; 9.Jn.1:10-12; 10. Jn.6:63; Rom.7:11-14; 11. Isaiah 40:31; 12. Jn.3:19; 5:40; 13. Rom.2:17-24; 14.Jn.13:34-35; 15. Acts 11:26; 16.Jer.7:21-23; Heb.11:6; 1Cor.13:13.**