

November 7, 2021

NORTH METRO CHURCH

NMC SERMON SERIES CONTENT



THE Greatest Commandment

The Great Commandment

³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" ³⁷ And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Matthew 22:34-40

This is a stand alone message by our friend, pastor
and guest speaker Matt Dean.

“THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT”



Summary of the Message:

1. Jesus summarizes what it means to live under the loving reign of God - it consists of loving God and loving others. This is what life is truly about. It is what it means to live in a fully human way. All of the law is summarized in this.
2. Jesus fulfilled this law perfectly, unto death. He loved the Father and us all the way to the cross. Because of this, we are **forgiven** for how we have fallen short AND **freed** to love God and others in the same way Jesus loves.
3. We cannot trust in ourselves to love with the love of God. We first turn to God in faith to receive his love in Jesus Christ AND the power of his Spirit to love as he loves.
4. When as a community we grow in both receiving and giving the love of God in Jesus Christ, we become a place of healing and hope for one another and for the world. By this **we will know** and **the world will know** that **we belong to Jesus, the King who loved us unto death.**

Discussion Questions:

1. Broad question: How have you seen the events of the past couple years (COVID, political turmoil, etc.) take their toll on the Church? What about you personally? How has it affected our ability to give and receive the love of God?

—Corollary questions:

- Where do you see the psychological effects...
- Where do you see polarization...
- Are any of these affected your ability to give/receive the love of God?

2. Broad question: What is one way that you need to/want to grow in loving God? What is one way that you need to/want to grow in loving others?

—Corollary questions:

- What do you need to let go of in order to take those steps of growth?
- What do you need to hold on to by faith in order to take those steps of growth?
- For example, what is competing for your affections? What tends to most influence your feelings, emotions? Where do you turn for understanding, reasoning, thinking and decision making?

3. Broad question: How can we cultivate a life of turning to God to receive the love and grace of God AND the power to love others? Forgiveness for not loving AND power to love?

▪ **What is one practical step** you can take to grow in this habit of repentance and faith, so that God's love will comfort and heal you and flow through you as a means of comfort and healing to others?