**Love Your God: The Greatest Commandment**

(Matt. 22:34-40)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In your own words, explain the following statement (taken from the Westminster Shorter Catechism): *The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever*. Likewise, explain this modernized version of the Westminster’s statement: *God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him*. Do you agree that our love to others is the overflow of our joy in God? Why or why not? In what practical ways have you experienced this in your own life?
2. Examine Matthew 22:1-33 and describe the ways in which the Jewish leaders were testing Jesus. Why would the leaders want to trap Jesus in his words? What idols in their lives were they fighting to protect? In your own words, how are these men a picture of perverted hedonism? In what way(s) did the Sadducee’s disbelief in a physical resurrection influence their idolatry of worldly pleasure? Examine Matthew 23:1-12 and explain Jesus’ diagnosis of their hearts. In what way(s) are you tempted to stumble in similar fashion (i.e. finding pleasure in anything other than God Himself)?
3. What kind of love and devotion to God does Jesus’ response call for? In what way(s) do Jesus’ words in John 14:15, 23-24 illustrate what saving faith/love for God looks like? In your own words, what does it mean to love God with your heart? Soul? Mind? Is this possible in your own power? Why or why not? In what way(s) do the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:1-21) illustrate the connection between loving God supremely and the obedience that follows? How does Romans 5:5 help us understand how, in the new birth, we are enabled to obey The Greatest Commandment (see also 1 Jn. 5:3)?
4. Explain why you do or do not agree with the following statement: *“Love is the overflow of joy – in God! It is not duty for duty’s sake or right for right’s sake. It is not a resolute abandoning of one’s own good with a view solely to the good of the other person. It is first a deeply satisfying experience of the fullness of God’s grace, and then a doubly satisfying experience of sharing that grace with another person.”* (John Piper, *Desiring God: Meditation of a Christian Hedonist*) Who, according to Scripture, would be your “neighbor”? In what way(s) does the Law and the Prophets “depend” (literally to hang upon something) on love? Describe a time in your life when your delight in God spilled over into the lives of those around you. List practical ways in which God’s love should impact those closest to you.