

Grades 7-12

We found an answer in the very next verse, **Matthew 22:40**, where Jesus tells us ALL of the laws and the prophets are based on these two commandments. So, basically, if you

truly do love God and truly do love others you will inherently fulfill the rest. We said that just about all of the Bible's moral and ethical teachings can be summed up into just these two Greatest Commandments.

We talked about how Jesus was our perfect model for how we are to love others both in the way that He lived and in the way that He loved us by dying for our sins. We talked about God's motivation for sending His Son to die for our sins and found in **John 3:16** that God did it for one reason, because "God so loved the world".

We said that God **IS** Love and He loves all of us. We are all created in His image so that we may also love others just as He loves us.

We also looked at what John had to say in **1 John 3:10** where he equates being a righteous person with being a loving person and says that if we are a child of God we will show love for others just as God shows love for us.

We then created a list of ways we can show love for God including things like studying the Bible, praying, praising God, obeying, trusting, listening, etc. and a list of ways we can show love for others including helping & encouraging others, listening, forgiving, etc. We also found that loving others is even actually another way that we can love God.

Loving God's creation (other people) expresses our love for the Creator. Other people see the love of God in us when we love others. Plus, as we just learned, loving others is second only to loving God as the two greatest commandments and obeying God shows our love for Him.

We explained that the love we were talking about is God's everlasting & unconditional selfless type of love as opposed to what we normally consider human or romantic love to be, often with many conditions or selfish motives attached.

Challenge: This week's challenge is to simply do one new thing, either from the lists we made or something else, that shows your love for another person.

Join us next time as we continue talking about what Jesus had to say about loving those who are difficult to love.

Upcoming Events

Summer Camp!

Don't miss Living Word Bible Church Summer Camp!
Junior High camp, for students going into 6-8 grade is June 22-25.

Camp costs \$149 plus \$30 for transportation to and from camp.
Each camp is also limited to the first 50 students who register.

Register for camp online at:

<http://livingwordonline.com/index.php/summer-camp>



Junior High Camp 2013

FX15-BeU Youth Conference!

Mark your calendars now for the biggest most exciting Youth Conference ever!

**November 12th through November 14th
at Living Word in Mesa**

Lots of fun activities for Junior High and High School students with amazing guest speakers and performers each day. Invite all of your friends!

More details to come...Mark your calendars now!

Bible verses referenced in this lesson: Matthew 22:34-40, John 3:16, Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 1 John 3:10

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed Week,

Chris & Michelle Miller
1 Youth Ministry

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