

Sovereign Grace Church

Love & Law outline

July 9, 2017

Matthew 22: 34-40

A question that seems to always arise in the study of God's law is how the virtue of love relates to that of law-keeping. Does love make law-keeping unnecessary? Is keeping God's law itself the same as loving God. Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." (Jn. 14:15) But what is love?

Worldly ideas of love in our day focus on the fulfilling of personal pleasures and the avoiding of pain or suffering. This divorces the idea of love from both God and His commandments. This type of love is unstable because it is driven by our insatiable craving for acceptance & limited by our ever changing emotional states. It has no connection to truth.

The Bible treats both love and law as complementary concepts. Law-keeping apart from love reduces to an arrogant self-promotion. Love apart from law-keeping reduces to an unending series of emotional highs apart from any lasting satisfaction. In this sense love is unconnected to Reality.

1. The 10 Commandments are summarized/fulfilled in the Law of Love

a. We are to Love God. Matt 22: 37; Deut 6:5

PT: We love God in keeping the first four commandments.

b. We are to Love our Neighbor. Matt 22: 39; Lev 19:18

PT: We love our neighbor in keeping the last six commandments.

Note: special focus on loving our brethren in Christ. Jn 13:35

c. How do we Know we are loving God/neighbor? Jn 14:15; Hos 6:4

2. Love is the only proper motivation for law keeping.

a. Our First Love is not the Law but Christ. Psm 119:97-98

**b. Love for God's Law is legitimate but secondary.
Rom 3: 20; Jn 15: 9-13**

None of us are born with the ability to Love God. Thus no one can be justified by keeping His Law.

We love God only because He first loved us! Eph. 2:1; Jn 3:5; I John 4:19

Questions for Family Discussion

- 1. What does it mean for you to follow Jesus? Why do you desire to do what He commands you to do? Can you follow Jesus without being concerned with obeying Him? Can you obey Him without loving Him?**
- 2. What is important to know if we desire to follow Jesus? Is the Bible necessary in this? Why? How would a disbelief in the Bible's inerrancy affect its use in discerning God's will?**
- 3. Is it possible to love your neighbor and to steal his car at the same time? Why not? Is it possible to love your neighbor and to deceive him at the same time? Is it possible to love your neighbor and not warn him of the consequences of his sin? Is it possible to love your neighbor and not desire to tell Him about the Gospel of Christ? Do you love your neighbor? Who is your neighbor?**

