

February 2019

From the Pastor



God's Command of Love



God knows whether we are one of His children. He gives us a test, so we know we are His children. One place the test is listed in is the book of 1 John.

1 John 3:10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (ESV)

We know if we are children of God if we follow God commandments. As children we also show God our love for Him by following His commandments. Look again at 1 John.

1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (ESV)

One person asked Jesus what is the greatest commandment? Jesus gave him this answer recorded in the gospel of Matthew.

Matthew 22:36-40 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." (ESV)

We are called to love God with our whole being. To love God with our heart calls for us to love God emotionally. Feel love for God. To love with our soul is a deep love for God. Love God from the deepest part of who we are. To love God with our mind is to love with intellect. I see it as an intentional decision to love God. We are called to love God with everything about us. We are to do as He



commands with everything we have. The second command that we are to follow is to love our neighbors as ourselves, but how much are we to love our neighbors? Look at this from the book of Romans.

Romans 12:10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. (ESV)

We are to compete in loving those around us, because we are to outdo each other in love. We show that we are children of God very simply, by love. This February love as God commands.

In Him and for His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Art". The word "Pastor" is written in a cursive style, and "Art" is written in a more stylized, blocky cursive.