

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

Filled Up and Poured Out – Part 21

Mark 12:28-34

February 17, 2013

Two Commands Sum It All Up:

1. ***Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. – Mark 12:30 NIV***

God wants us to love Him with great...

- **(Passion)** - *...with all your heart...*
- **Determination** - *...with all your soul...*
- **Thoughtfulness** - *...with all your mind...*
- **(Energy)** - *...with all your strength.*

How do we rekindle love that has grown cold?

...I have this against you: The love you had at first is gone. Remember how far you have fallen. Return to me and change the way you think and act, and do what you did at first. – Revelation 2:4-5 GWT

- A. **(Dialogue)** daily through your quiet time.
 - B. **“(Date)”** weekly through worship. (Remember that great dates usually require thought, preparation, and effort.)
 - C. **(Depart)** at least annually to refresh the relationship.
2. ***Love your neighbor as yourself. – Mark 12:31***

- A. **Who is my neighbor?**
 - **My neighbor is anyone I encounter who is hurting or (in need).**

...he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. – Luke 10:29-30 NIV

- B. **How does God want me to “love my neighbor?”**
 - **Agape love is an active commitment to (meet the needs) of another person.**

He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. "Look after him," he said, "and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have." – Luke 10:34-35 NIV

C. What if my heart has grown cold and uncaring toward others?

➤ Choose to act in loving and (generous) ways in spite of your feelings.

What God the Father considers to be pure and genuine religion is this: to take care of orphans and widows in their suffering and to keep oneself from being corrupted by the world. – James 1:27 GNT

Now, suppose a person has enough to live on and notices another believer in need. How can God's love be in that person if he doesn't bother to help the other believer? Dear children, we must show love through actions that are sincere, not through empty words. – 1 John 3:17-18 GWT