

The Greatest Commandment In The Book Of Romans

(Romans 12:1-21)

- Introduction:
1. Jesus once answered a lawyer by stating that the greatest commandment was to love God with all one's heart, soul and mind (Matthew 22:37).
 2. Furthermore, he stated that the second greatest commandment was to love one's neighbor as oneself (Matthew 22:39).
 3. While there are many technical things about the doctrine of Christ and our redemption, Romans 12 is a practical restatement of the two greatest commandments.
 4. Let's see how Paul, in Romans, fleshes out these two great commands.

I. Our Love For God

- A. (Romans 12:1-2).
- B. Presenting our bodies as living sacrifices emphasizes our love for God and contrasts the way we show it under the New Covenant.
- C. God also takes notice of the quality of our sacrifice.
 1. It is to be holy and acceptable.
 2. Which also is reasonable, or rational.
- D. We are not to conform to the world, but be transformed by the word. In so doing we demonstrate to the world that God's ways are good and acceptable.

II. Our Love For Self

- A. (Romans 12:3).
- B. Humility is required.
- C. One who is lacking in humility tells on himself. What he tells is that he hasn't been in the presence of God for some time.

III. Our Love For Others

- A. Our Love for Brethren (Romans 12:4-16)
 1. Use your gifts to bless them (vs. 4-8).
 2. Love is more than words, but involves actions (vs. 9-16).
- B. Our Love for Enemies (Romans 12:14,17-21).
 1. Notice the depth of the response.
 - a. Don't do evil (vs. 17,19).
 - b. For as much as depends on you (v. 18).
 - b. Do good (v. 20).
 2. The response is active and not just passive.

- Conclusion:
1. Brethren, what Paul does for us in Romans 12 is that he puts skin on the two greatest commandments.
 2. Be sure you measure yourself, not only by the stark command, but the clothed command as Paul gave it.