

**Skegness Community Church - Weekly Bible Study 2025**  
**52 passages of Scripture that every believer should know**

**Week 23 - THE GREAT COMMANDMENT**

**Luke 10: 27**

**“Love the Lord your God, with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and, love your neighbour as yourself.”**

What is your primary purpose in life? Everything has a primary purpose. Our own primary purpose is found in the words of this week's verse: “Love the Lord your God .... And your neighbour as yourself.” All the commandments of God are pure, but only one is called “great”. And it is the one dealing with love for God and for our fellow human being. This commandment is called great because it includes all the Ten Commandments within one verse. The first four of “The Big Ten” have to do with our relationship with God. Thus Jesus said, “love the Lord your God.” The last six have to do with our relationship with one another. Thus, our Lord continued, “and, love your neighbour as yourself.” The first half of the Great Commandment has to do with our attitude and the last half with our actions. Here again is the principle of *being* coming before *doing* that we see woven into the fabric of Scripture.

**OUR ATTITUDE**

**“Love the Lord your God, with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”.**

The Lord Jesus referred to this as a commandment. It is not an option, nor is it a suggestion. And it is important to note that this commandment is directed to those who know Christ in a personal way through new birth. It is the Lord *your* God to whom He referred. You cannot truly love someone unless you really know that person, and you cannot know someone unless you spend time alone with that person. The emphasis here is on loving the One who first loved us and gave Himself for us. We are to hold nothing back when we love God. We are to love Him with our heart. Jesus once spoke of those who honour Him with their lips but not their hearts - they were far from Him (Matthew 15:8). We are to love God with our entire mind. A heart full of love is no excuse for an empty mind. Our attitude should reveal that we love God with all of our strength and soul. In other words, our entire person is to be given over to God in love.

**OUR ACTIONS “love your neighbour as yourself”**

If we truly have an attitude of love towards the Lord, then actions revealing our love for others around us will be as natural as water running downhill. This Great Commandment is given to us in the context of the story Jesus told of the good Samaritan. He concluded this story of love for others with a warning to “go and do likewise” (Luke 10:37). Love is always equated with action. Love is something we do. If our attitude is wholehearted love for Christ, then our actions will result in love for those around us. Jesus said we are to love our neighbours “as we love ourselves.” Many people who have not found their true identity in Christ have a real issue here. Many people have little self-respect or self-love. This is why the commandment is directed to those who have fallen in love with the Lord Jesus, because only those of us who find our self-worth in Him can love on the level He commands. Keeping things in proper order is vitally important. We are to love God first and foremost. When we do this, our actions towards others will issue out of a loving attitude for Him. The world system tells us the way to truly love God is to love man first. But Jesus clearly said, “No, the way to truly love your neighbour is to love the Lord supremely.” Do you love God? A good test is to ask yourself these questions: Do you like to be with Him? Do you like to be with Him .. Alone? Do you enjoy reading His love letters to you, the bible? Do you delight in talking to Him in prayer? Yes everything has a primary purpose. The real question is “Are we fulfilling God's primary purpose in our lives by obeying the greatest of all the commandments?”

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As you memorise this verse, meditate on the fact that this commandment from the lips of our Lord is so powerful that, in this one verse, He put all the Ten Commandments: “Love the Lord .. and... your neighbour as yourself.”