

KINGDOM RELATIONSHIPS

THE FOUNDATIONS OF TRUE LOVE

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Matthew 22:34-40

³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ Then one of them, a lawyer, asked *Him a question*, testing Him, and saying, ³⁶ “Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?”

Matthew 22:34-40

³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is *the* first and great commandment. ³⁹ And *the* second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Matthew 22:34-40 – CONTEXT

- The religious leaders test Jesus
- A fundamental question about priorities - Matthew 22:36
- "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"
- Jesus' revolutionary response

The Two Great Commandments

1. "Love the Lord your God..."
2. "Love your neighbour as yourself"

Vertical Love = How to Love God

- With all your **HEART**
- With all your **SOUL**
- With all your **MIND**

Understanding HEART Love

- Emotional devotion
- Deep affection
- Passionate commitment

Understanding SOUL Love

- Spiritual connection to God
- Worship and adoration for God
- Life-giving relationship with God

Understanding MIND Love

- Intellectual engagement with God
- Thoughtful faith in God
- Strategic devotion to God

Horizontal Love = Loving Others

- Jesus' words - "The second is LIKE it"
- The Second Commandment has equal importance!
- It's connected to the first commandment

Healthy Self-Love

- Understanding our value as God's children
- Accepting both our strengths and weaknesses
- Acknowledging our need for growth and grace

The Kingdom Framework

- Love God!
- Love People!
- "On these two commandments hang all the Law and Prophets"

Practical Applications – Four Important Areas

1. Family relationships
2. Church community
3. Workplace interactions
4. Difficult relationships

Living It Out: Family

- Expressing God's love
- Quality time
- Active listening
- Forgiveness

Living It Out: Church

- Unity in diversity
- Serving one another
- Building community
- Supporting growth

Living It Out: Workplace

- Integrity
- Excellence
- Kindness
- Witness

Living It Out: Difficult People

- Grace under pressure
- Praying for enemies
- Setting boundaries
- Showing mercy

Self-Assessment Questions

1. How am I loving God today?
2. Where can I grow in loving others?
3. What barriers need to be removed?

A Call to Action

- Evaluate your vertical relationship
- Strengthen horizontal connections
- Build Kingdom relationships

Closing Scripture

- "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets"
- Matthew 22:40
- Quote: "Everything motivated by love"