

# RESTORING THE FIRST COMMANDMENT TO FIRST PLACE

MATT. 22:37-38

## I. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS RESTORING THE FIRST COMMANDMENT TO FIRST PLACE

- A. The great commandment is to love God with all our heart. This is God's first priority in our life.

*Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."<sup>38</sup> This is the first and great commandment. (Mt. 22:37-38)*

- B. We cannot love God with all our heart until we know He loves us with all His heart. When God wants to empower us to love Him, He reveals Himself as One who loves us.

*We love Him because (we understand that) He first loved us. (1 Jn. 4:19)*

- C. Equally yoked in love: God wants us to love Him with all of our heart and mind because He loves us with all of His heart and mind. The infinite God is worthy of infinite love. He simply asks us to love Him with our all (Rom. 5:5)

- D. Jesus prayed for His people to be supernaturally empowered to love Him with God's love.

*And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them (John 17:26)*

- E. God's purpose is to select and train a Bride who would be prepared by voluntary love to reign with Jesus. The First Commandment will be in first place in the Church when Jesus returns.

*<sup>7</sup> For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. (Rev. 19:7)*

- F. Jesus defined loving God as being deeply rooted in a spirit of obedience (Jn. 14:21; Deut. 6:1-9). There is no such thing as loving God without seeking to obey His Word (John 14:15-23)

## II. LOVING GOD IS THE FIRST COMMANDMENT: IT IS WHAT GOD WANTS FIRST

- A. Loving God is the first priority to God. Jesus did not call it the first option but a commandment. Loving God is a glorious end in itself, however, it never ends with loving God but always overflows with loving ourselves and others (believers and unbelievers).

- B. God has everything yet He is searching for something that He still wants first. What does He want most and first? It is love that He is after. He is after our heart, our voluntary love.

## III. LOVING GOD IS THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT, CALLING AND LIFESTYLE

- A. Loving God has the greatest impact on God's heart, our heart and others we touch. It is the greatest calling for our heart as well as in our ministry to others because the fruit lasts forever.

- B. Our greatest calling in the grace of God is to move or impact God's heart. We move His heart by every movement of our heart to show love to Him by obedience.

#### IV. AFFECTION BASED OBEDIENCE: MOTIVATED BY SATISFACTION IN JESUS

- A. “Affection-based obedience” is obedience that flows from experiencing Jesus’ affection for us and then giving it back to Him. It is the strongest kind of obedience. It results in the deepest and most consistent obedience.
- B. “Duty-based obedience” is obedience that does not feel God’s presence. God’s Word requires that we obey God even when we do not feel inspired to do so.
- C. “Fear-based obedience” or “shame-based obedience” is obedience that flows from the fear of being put to shame or the fear of suffering negative consequences.
- D. The approach of many is to only use shame and fear to motivate people into keeping a list of dos and don’ts. The Word of God has many prohibitions, but these laws and rules were never designed by God to transform the heart.
- E. We sin when our heart is unsatisfied with God. The temptation to experience the pleasure of sin is usually more powerful than the fear of punishment. This fear of sin’s consequences does not usually overpower the tendency to sin. Instead, it causes us to sin in secret.

#### V. SETTING OUR HEART TO KNOW THE FATHER

- A. We must have a sustained vision to go deep in God by walking in intimacy with Him.
- B. God enjoys us even in our immaturity. He delighted in David on the day of his repentance after 16 months of compromise in Ziklag (1 Sam. 27-30; Ps. 18:19)
- C. The primary goal or primary assignment in God’s will is to grow in love, meekness and revelation. God measures life different than man because He has all the money, wisdom, fame, influence and time.
- D. Our ministry assignment or our place of function in ministry must be our second priority.
- E. We put our cold heart before the bonfire of God’s presence by seeking Him in the Word and prayer. *We change our mind, then God changes our hearts.*

#### VI. REVELATION OF THE SUPREMACY OF THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

- A. We need revelation of the supremacy of the first commandment.
- B. The church of Ephesus was a great revival center in the early Church (Acts 19-20). Yet, they did not sustain the freshness in their love for Jesus. They became workers for God more than lovers of God (Rev. 2:4)
- C. Satan’s priority is to lead us astray from cultivating wholehearted love and devotion to Jesus.  
<sup>3</sup> *I am afraid, lest as the serpent (Satan) deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. (2 Cor 11:3, NAS)*
- D. Sustaining a fresh walk with God through decades is the definition of living radically  
<sup>4</sup> *One thing... I seek...all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord... (Ps. 27:4)*