

“God’s Blueprint for our Church: Love God”

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – September 7, 2014

[Matthew 22:34-40](#) (Great Commandment)

34 Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. 35 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" 37 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Jesus quoted from Deut. 6:5)

3 Questions We Must Answer:

1. What does it mean to Love God?

- IT MEANS HE COMES FIRST!

[Matt 22:37](#)

Jesus said: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment.

[Gal 2:18](#)

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.

2. Why is Loving God so important for you and for our church?

- BECAUSE HE IS THE FOUNDATION OF EVERYTHING!

When Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was, he said... LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD.

Jesus said, everything else hinges on this.

[Matt 22:40](#)

All the Law and Prophets hang on this...

First 4 Commandments focus on loving God – [Deut. 5](#)

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Your love for God flows out of His love for you.

[1 John 4:19](#)

We love because he first loved us.

3. How do we truly Love God?

- WE WORSHIP HIM!

Lord’s Prayer:

[Matt 6:9](#)

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.”

[1 John 3:16](#)

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.