

LOVING GOD MORE THAN THE WORLD

"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And He said to him, "'You shall love the lord YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'You shall love your Neighbor As Yourself.' On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 22:36-40 NASB).

Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him (1 John 2:15).

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- **1** Pray that Christians will prioritize God's commands to love Him and to love others and will strive to obey Him in this by the power of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 22:36-40).
- 2 Where churches have lost their love for Jesus, pray that God will clearly call them back to Himself (Revelation 2:4).
- 3 As church families gather to worship, ask God to expose the things that have crept into the hearts of His people that compete with a simple and pure devotion to Him (2 Corinthians 11:3).
- 4 Ask God to give His children the supernatural power to love their neighbors selflessly (Matthew 22:39).

5 Knowing what a love relationship with God should look like is difficult for a generation that has walked away from God's biblical view of marriage (Ephesians 5:22-33). Since God intended the relationship a man has with his wife to portray God's love relationship with us, pray that the marriages within your church family will become all that God designed them to be.

6 It is not uncommon for people to quickly assert that they love God. Pray that Christians will understand, however, that the love of God will not be within them as long as they love the world and the things that are in it (1 John 2:15).

When a Christian loves the things of the world, they are in a very dangerous place. Ask God to send the kind of revival that moves believers to love Him above the world and its sinful ways (1 John 2:15).

- 8 In 1 John 4:8, we learn that "the one who does not love does not know God, for God is love." Pray today for the genuine salvation of people who profess to be Christians but fail to truly manifest the selfless love of God in their lives.
 - Pray that Christians in your country will love their enemies and pray for those who persecute them (Matthew 5:44).
 - As churches gather, pray that your pastor will preach motivated by a sincere love for God and His people (Philippians 1:15).
- In the last days, when lawlessness increases, the Bible tells us that most people's love will grow cold (Matthew 24:12). Pray for the members of your church family to never lose the passion and warmth of their love for Jesus and others.
- 2 Pray that Christians in your community will love their neighbors by carrying their burdens and helping them through life's difficult times (Galatians 6:2).
- **13** Jesus said that there is no real reward in only loving people who love us (Matthew 5:46). Pray that as Christians, we will learn how to genuinely and practically love those from whom we have never received love.
 - 4 Since no one can serve two masters without loving and being devoted to one more than the other, pray that your church family will love God far above wealth or possessions (Matthew 6:24).

- **15** Jesus pronounced woe on the Pharisees because they were being diligent with their religious activities but neglecting justice and the love of God (Luke 11:42). Pray that Christians in your community will never forget that loving God always takes precedence over merely performing one's religious duties.
- **16** Jesus told His disciples that they were to love one another even as He had loved them (John 13:34). Pray that we can do the same, allowing the love of Jesus to touch our church families and others through us.
- **17** As churches gather for corporate worship and fellowship, pray for there to be a unique sense of love and unity in the Spirit through the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3).
- **18** Jesus said that all men would recognize us as His followers when we faithfully love one another (John 13:35). Therefore, in order to see our witness for Christ grow among the lost, pray that our love for one another will become visibly real.
- **19** Pray that your church family will consistently demonstrate their love for Jesus by wholeheartedly keeping His commandments (John 14:15).
- 20 To abide in Christ literally means "to set up your tent" where He is. It means to live with Him, continually acknowledging and submitting to His presence and rule in your life. Ask God to teach Christians in your community how to abide in His love for them (John 15:9).
- 21 Knowing that His death was imminent, Jesus lovingly told His disciples in John 14:1, "Do not let your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me." As hearts are troubled by sin and doubt today, pray that more and more people will believe in Jesus and be saved.
- 22 Pray that the people living in your community will understand God's love for them, believe in the resurrected Jesus, and follow Him as Lord of their lives (Romans 10:9).

- Pray that the love we experience in our walk with Christ will be without hypocrisy on our part; that we will hate what is evil and cling to what is good (Romans 12:9).
- As churches prepare to gather and fellowship, ask God to expose any corporate sins that need to be confessed and repented of by the entire church (Revelation 2:5).
- **5** Pray that more and more, your church family will be devoted to one another in brotherly love, looking for ways to outdo the others in showing honor (Romans 12:10).
- **26** Pray that Christians in your community will demonstrate God's love by doing no wrong to their neighbors (Romans 13:10).
- Paul articulates the biblical principle that if we are doing something that spiritually hurts our Christian brother, we are no longer walking according to love (Romans 14:15). Pray that the members of your church will lay down anything in their personal lives that could negatively influence others by causing them to sin.
 - 8 In 1 Corinthians 8:1, Paul makes the statement that "knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies." Pray that Christians all over the country will build up one another through love instead of tearing others down in pride.
- 9 Pray that as your Christian friends become more like Jesus, their lives will demonstrate the love described in 1 Corinthians 13.
- Pray that your Christian friends will be rooted and grounded in love and will be able to comprehend the breadth and length and height and depth of all that Christ's love means for them (Ephesians 3:17-19).
- Paul said that the goal of his instruction was "love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith" (1 Timothy 1:5). Pray that God will send a great revival among His people, moving us to love Him and each other with pure hearts.