

**Discussion Questions Set #1**

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.” (Deuteronomy 6:3-5)

“One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:35-40)

In sermon, we spoke about the difference between being a “10 Commandment” and a “Great Commandment” Christian. One distinction is related to the seeming legalism associated with 10 Commandment obedience whereas Great Commandment obedience seems to centre more on loving, transformational relationship.

1. In your experience, has legalism ever been hurtful to your faith? How did you reconcile this?
2. Discuss how you view the 10 Commandments (or the other 603 commandments of the Law) as functioning in the life of the follower of Jesus?
3. How might following the Great Commandment (loving God and loving others) help us to properly fulfill the rest of the Mosaic Law? How do these other laws “hang” on the Great Commandment?

**Discussion Questions Set #2**

“Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!” (Deuteronomy 5:29)

“The LORD commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the LORD our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today.” (Deuteronomy 6:24)

“Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” (Deuteronomy 6:7)

“What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. (Philippians 3:8-9)

1. What is God’s intent for His people through the Laws He has given? Discuss the difference between obedience for obedience sake and obedience for blessing sake.
2. Discuss the significance of Deuteronomy 6:7 in light of God’s intent for the Commandments.
3. How does our pursuit of righteousness differ as followers of Jesus than for that of the ancient Israelites? What does faith in Christ do for us that legalistic obedience cannot?
4. Spend some time putting a practical face (behaviours or attitudes) on what it means to love:
  - God with all your heart?
  - God with all your soul?
  - God with all your mind?
  - God with all your strength?
  - Your neighbour as yourself?