



## Rice Memorial MBC

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### **Love Fulfills the Law**

Definitions in **bold** letters are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance  
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or Roget's Thesaurus - **August 28, 2016**

## **Matthew 22:35-40; Romans 12:1-2, 13:8-10**

**Introduction:** The simplest reason for asking a **question** is to get information. Another reason for asking questions is to **make** someone think. The **skilled** teacher, like **Socrates** of old, plies students with provocative and unsettling questions to help them **THINK** more deeply about things they have always taken for granted.

There are also less worthy motives and questioning. Some students seek, by **nature** and **tone** of their questions, to show how much they already know, showing off their knowledge.

**Opinionated** (*unduly adhering to one's OWN opinion or to preconceived notions*) **people** ASK questions to get others to AGREE with them.

Then there are questions designed to **TRAP** and **discredit** a person. Jesus' critics often tried this technique with Him. Let us see how He responded.

(Source: *The Bible Expositor and Illuminator, Union Press Publication- Christian Life Series*)

**Matthew 22:34**, But when the **Pharisees** had heard that he had put the **Sadducees** to **silence**, they were gathered together.

**Thought 1.** In the earth, Jesus (Yahshua) was not God (deity), but the Son of God (Yahweh, the Highest Deity). So, he had God's nature. This means God (Yahweh) was IN him and WITH him to teach him what he needed to know from the scriptures to make him WISE as a serpent, but harmless as a dove. If he had been God (deity) in the earth, he would NOT have had to be taught by his Father.

So, while he was in the earth, he knew only what his Father revealed to him and taught him. But to his credit, he learned as he was taught, therefore, his wisdom increased!

**Luke 2:52** ...Jesus **increased** in **wisdom** and stature, and in favour with God and man.

**John 8:28**, Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing **of myself**; but as my **Father** hath **taught me**, **I speak** these things.

**Proverbs 24:5**, A WISE man is **strong**; yea, a man of **knowledge** increaseth **strength**.

**Thought 2.** He not only learned what God's word says, but, he also learned HOW to reason properly, using it skillfully, which made him able to DISCERN BOTH good and evil, and also made him able to answer any and ALL questions wisely!

**Colossians 4:6**, Let your speech be always with **GRACE** (**graciousness** [pleasing manner]), seasoned with **salt** (**prudence** [wisdom in the way of caution and provision; discretion]), that ye may KNOW HOW YE **ought to ANSWER** every man.

**Titus 1:7-11**, For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God... ...a lover of good men, sober, just... ...holding fast the faithful WORD as he hath been **taught**, that he may be **ABLE** by **sound doctrine** both to exhort and to **convince** the **gainsayers** (one who contradicts).

For there are many UNRULY and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the **circumcision**: whose **mouths MUST BE stopped (silenced)**, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought NOT, for filthy lucre's sake.

**Hebrews 5:12-14**, For when for the TIME ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the **first principles** of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that **useth milk** is **unskilful** in the word of righteousness: for he is a **babe**. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of **full age (PERFECT)**, even those who by reason of **USE** have their **senses exercised** to discern both good and evil.

**Matthew 22:35-36**, Then one of them, which was a **lawyer**, asked him a question, **tempting** him, and saying, **Master (Teacher)**, which is the **great (greatest)** commandment in the LAW?

**NOTE:** The Jews of Jesus' day divided their law into 613 distinct commandments, and they differed among themselves as to which were "**heavy**" and which were "**light**".

Jesus was acquainted with these divisions, and in his His teaching, He recognized differences in the **weightiness** of individual commands. (Matt 5:19) He condemned His contemporaries for replacing "the weightier matters of the law" (23:23) with trivialities. Equally condemning was the practice of using **traditions** THEY had established to fortify their commands to actually **negate** laws that were onerous (burdensome) to them (15:1-9)

But Jesus never split legalistic hairs over matters of individual commands. He always sought to extract the **principle** behind the command – the **purpose** for which the command was given (cf. Matt 12:1-14). Sadly, in their **zeal** to keep the MOSAIC CODE intact, the Pharisees often missed this completely.

(Source: *The Bible Expositor and Illuminator*, Union Press Publication- Christian Life Series)

**Matthew 23:23**, Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye **pay tithe** of mint and anise and cummin, and **have omitted** the **WEIGHTIER** matters of the law, **judgment, mercy, and faith**: these OUGHT ye to have DONE, and NOT to leave the other UNDONE.

**NOTE: A lawyer** - This does NOT mean one that "**practiced**" law, as among us, but one learned or skilled in the **LAW of Moses**.

Mark calls him "one of the SCRIBES." This means the same thing. The **scribes** were men of **learning** - particularly men **skilled** in the **law of Moses**. ... He was evidently supposed by the Pharisees to be better qualified to hold a DEBATE with him than the Sadducees were, and they had therefore put him forward for that purpose. This man was probably of a candid (FAIR; open; free from undue bias; impartial) turn of mind; perhaps **willing** to know the truth, and not entering very fully into their malicious intentions, but acting as their agent, Mark 12:34.

**Mark 12:34**, And when Jesus saw that he answered **discreetly (prudently)** [in a PRUDENT {practically wise; careful; sensible} manner]], he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question.

**Tempting him** - Trying him. Proposing a question to TEST his knowledge of the law.  
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/matthew-22.html>)

**Matthew 22:37-38**, Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt **LOVE** the Lord (God [Jehovah (Yahweh)]) thy **God (supreme [highest] Divinity)** with ALL thy **heart (thoughts or FEELINGS)**, and with ALL thy **soul**, and with ALL thy **mind**.

This is the **first (foremost in importance)** and **great (greatest)** commandment.

**Love defined 25, verb, agapao ag-ap-ah'-o; to love (in a social OR MORAL sense).**  
Moral, relating to DUTY or OBLIGATION; pertaining to those intentions and actions of which right and wrong, virtue and vice, are predicated, or to the rules by which such intentions and actions ought to be directed.

**John 14:21**, He that hath my commandments, and **keepeth them**, he it is that **LOVETH ME.**

**Thought 1.** The noun form of God's kind of "love" is agape'. It comes from agapa'o.

**Luke 11:42** ... ye **tithe** mint... and pass over judgment and the **love (agape')** of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

**NOTE: Jesus said unto him ...** - Mark says that he introduced this by referring to the doctrine of the unity (state of being one) of God "Hear, O Israel! the Lord thy God is ONE (alone) Lord (Eternal)" - taken from Deuteronomy 6:4. This was said, probably, because all TRUE obedience depends on the **correct knowledge of God**. None can keep his commandments who are not acquainted with his nature, his perfections, and his RIGHT to command,

**...love the Lord thy God with all thy heart** - To love him with all the heart is to FIX the affections supremely on him, more strongly than on anything else, and to be WILLING to give up all that we hold dear at his command,

**With all thy soul** - Or, with all thy "life." This means, to be willing to give up the life to him, and to devote it all to his service; to live to him, and to be willing to die at his command,

**With all thy mind** - To **submit** the "intellect" to his will. To love his law and gospel more than we do the decisions of our own minds. To be willing to submit all our faculties to his teaching and guidance, and to devote to him all our intellectual attainments and all the results of our intellectual efforts.

"With all thy strength" (Mark). With all the faculties of soul and body. To labor and toil for **HIS glory**, and to make that the great object of **all our efforts**.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/matthew-22.html>)

**Matthew 22:39-40**, And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt **LOVE** thy **neighbor** as thyself. On these two commandments **hang** (depend, rest on for support) all the **law** and the **prophets**.

**Love defined 25, verb, agapao ag-ap-ah'-o; to LOVE (in a SOCIAL or MORAL sense).**

Social, relating to men living in society, **social DUTIES** (responsibilities). True **SELF-love** and SOCIAL are the same.

Moral, in general, moral denotes something which respects the conduct of men and their relations as social beings whose actions have a bearing on each other's **RIGHTS** and **HAPPINESS**, and are therefore RIGHT or WRONG, virtuous or vicious; as moral character; moral views; moral knowledge; moral maxims (principles); moral approbation (tribute of praise); moral justice; **moral OBLIGATIONS**.

Love, *verb t.*, to HAVE benevolence or good will FOR. (willingness; willing mind)  
Benevolence, **1.** The disposition (frame of mind) to DO GOOD; kindness; the love of mankind, accompanied with a desire to promote **THEIR** happiness.

**Thought 1.** To love thy neighbor as thyself makes clear what "unconditional love" should DO. So, he did NOT say "love unconditionally." He gave specific instructions!

**Matthew 5:43-48**, Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt **LOVE** thy neighbour, and **HATE** thine **enemy**. But I say unto you, **Love** your **enemies**, bless them that curse you, **DO GOOD** to them that **HATE you**, and pray for

them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the **children** of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain (*to water their crops, etc.*) on the just and on the unjust. For if ye **LOVE them** which **love you**, what **reward** have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye **MORE** than others? do not even the publicans so? **Be ye** therefore **perfect (full [MATURE] age)**, even **AS** your **Father** which is in heaven is **perfect**.

**NOTE:** Mark 12:32-34 adds that the **scribe said**, "Well, Master, thou hast said the truth;" and that he assented to what Jesus had said, and admitted that to love God and man in this manner was more than all burnt-offerings and sacrifices; that is, was of **more value** or **importance**. Jesus, in reply, told him that he was "**not far** from the kingdom of heaven;" in other words, by his reply he had shown that he was almost prepared to **receive** the **doctrines** of the **gospel**. He had evinced (made evident) such an acquaintance with the law as to prove that he was nearly prepared to receive the teachings of Jesus.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/matthew-22.html>)

**Romans 12:1-2**, I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, **holy (pure, morally blameless)**, acceptable unto God, which is your **reasonable service**. And be NOT conformed to **this world**: but be ye **transformed (CHANGE)** by the **renewing (renovation)** of your MIND, that ye may **PROVE** what is that good, and acceptable, and **perfect (complete, of full [mature] age)**, will of God.

**Prove defined 1381, to approve** (1. be pleased with; 2. To SHOW to be true): **DISCERN** (to discover, to SEE or UNDERSTAND the difference).

**NOTE:** The world ... is NOT a reference to the physical geography of the planet, but is spoken of the natural habits, **desires**, and **value judgments** of the **natural man**, the natural man being man apart from the loving guidance of his Maker. The things of God's Spirit are "foolishness" to the unregenerated (1 Corinthians 2:14); but the Christian **must adopt** an utterly different SET of value-judgments, based upon an utterly new and higher concept of life, and thus encompassing a view of the eternal things, rather than merely those of earth and time.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/romans-12.html>)

**Romans 13:8**, Owe no man any thing, but to **LOVE** one another: for he that **loveth** another hath **FULFILLED (satisfy [MEET requirements]; performed) the LAW**.

**NOTE:** Greathouse understood the first clause here as the negative statement of the first clause in Romans 13:7, thus referring it to the **obligations** of custom, tribute, honor, etc. He said: This means, do NOT continue in a state of OWING any of the **obligations** referred to in Romans 13:7, but fulfill them and discharge them. There is only ONE DEBT of which you can NEVER GET RID - the **debt of LOVE**.<sup>[3]</sup>

The discharge of all debts and the keeping of all commandments is **summed up** in the **one word** of a man's **LOVING others** as (just like) he **LOVES himself**. This applies to all commandments of a SOCIAL or man-ward nature. There are other commands which spring out of the love of God, this dual direction of **human obligation** being demonstrated in the fact of there having been **TWO TABLES** of the Decalogue (Ten Commandments or precepts given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai, and originally written on two tables of stone.). Paul made this nice distinction by quoting **only man-ward obligations** in his next statement. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/romans-13.html>)

**Romans 13:9**, For this, Thou shalt NOT commit **adultery**, Thou shalt NOT **kill (do MURDER)**...

Murder, the offense of killing a human being WITH malice (ill will; a spirit delighting in



harm or misfortune to another) prepense (preconceived; premeditated) or aforethought, express or implied; intentional and **UNLAWFUL HOMICIDE**.

HOMICIDE, The killing of one man or human being by another. Homicide is of THREE kinds, justifiable, excusable, and felonious; JUSTIFIABLE, when it proceeds from unavoidable necessity, without an intention to kill, and without negligence; EXCUSABLE, when it happens from misadventure, or in self-defense; FELONIOUS, when it proceeds from malice, or is done in the prosecution of some unlawful act, or in a sudden passion. Homicide committed with premeditated malice, is murder. SUICIDE also, or self-murder, is felonious homicide.

Homicide comprehends murder and manslaughter (in law, the unlawful killing of a man without malice, express or implied. This may be voluntary, upon a sudden heat or excitement of anger; or involuntary, but in the commission of some unlawful act.).

The killing of their **children** had, in the account of God, the guilt of MURDER, as the offering them to idols had the guilt of idolatry. *Locke*.

**Romans 13:9** ...Thou shalt NOT **steal**, Thou shalt NOT **bear false witness**, Thou shalt NOT **covet** (desire that which it is unlawful to obtain or possess); and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, **Thou shalt LOVE thy neighbour AS (just like) THYSELF**.

**NOTE:** ...love therefore is the fulfillment of the law. As noted above, Paul here adhered to the pattern of Jesus' summation of all the Decalogue under the TWO HEADINGS of **LOVE to God**, and **LOVE to people** (Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 12:29-31), the latter division being the one considered here. The Christian life is realized, **NOT by an item tabulation** of commandments KEPT or BROKEN, but by a conscious filling of the heart with LOVE toward others, a fulfillment being made possible only by the sacred enthronement within, of the Holy Spirit.

That Paul consciously followed the **teachings** of the **Master** throughout is observable in several particulars, as noted by Lenski:

Already in connection with Romans 13:1-7, we noted that Paul is repeating the very teachings of Jesus with **regard to government and taxation**; he certainly repeats the Master's instructions here, ...

(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/bcc/romans-13.html>)

**Romans 13:10**, **LOVE worketh NO ill to his neighbour: therefore ...LOVE is the fulfilling (COMPLETION [EXECUTION: PERFORMANCE]) of the LAW**.

**NOTE:** This passage does **not teach** that if one **loves his neighbor** he has **license** to break any of the commandments, but that truly **LOVING** one's neighbor will positively **RESTRAIN from any sinful action against** one's neighbor. This is profoundly true and means that the FIRST and uppermost concern of God is that human hearts should indeed overflow with **LOVE to mankind**, such **LOVE making it impossible** that **specific evil deeds** in the SOCIAL spectrum could be committed.

(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/bcc/romans-13.html>)

**NOTE: Love worketh no ill ...** - Love would seek to DO him good; of course it would prevent all dishonesty and crime toward others. It would **prompt** to justice, truth, and benevolence. If **this law** were engraved on every man's heart, and **practiced** in his life, what a change would it immediately produce in society! If ALL PEOPLE would at once **"abandon"** what is suited to **"work ill"** to others, what an influence would it have on the business and commercial affairs of people. How many plans of fraud and dishonesty would it at once **arrest**? How many schemes would it crush? It would **silence the voice** of the

**slanderer;** it would stay the plans of the seducer and the adulterer; it would put an **end** to cheating, and fraud, and ALL schemes of **dishonest gain.** The **gambler** desires the property of his neighbor without any compensation; and thus works “ill” to him. The dealer in **“lotteries”** desires property for which he has never toiled, and which must be obtained at the EXPENSE and LOSS of others. And there are many “employments” all whose tendency is to work “ill” to a neighbor.

**Therefore ...** - “Because” **LOVE does NO harm** to another, it is “therefore” the **fulfilling** of the Law, implying that all that the Law **REQUIRES** is to “LOVE” others.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/romans-13.html>)

**Thought 1.** So, what we see from these verses is the **MORALS** of **BOTH** Covenants are the **SAME.** Therefore, even though God (Yahweh) **made** a New Covenant, he did **NOT** make **NEW MORALS** for it.

Furthermore, before Jesus went to the cross, he gave a command that goes beyond loving our neighbor **AS** (like) ourselves. It was more specific and more demanding! And it’s the **SECOND** of the commandments we have under God’s (Yahweh’s) “New Covenant.”

**1 John 3:22-23,** And whatsoever **we ASK, we receive** of him (Yahweh), because we **KEEP HIS** commandments, and **DO** those things that are **pleasing in his sight.** And **this** is **HIS COMMANDMENT,** That we should **BELIEVE** on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and **LOVE** one another, as he (*Jesus*) gave us commandment.

**John 13:34,** A **new commandment** I give unto you, That ye **LOVE** one another; **AS** (*just like*) **I have LOVED YOU,** that ye also **LOVE** one another.

**John 21:15-17,** So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, **LOVEST** thou me **MORE than these?** He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, **Feed MY lambs.**

**1 John 2:5-6** ...whoso keepeth his **word, IN him** verily is the **love of God perfected:** hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him **ought** himself also so to walk, **even AS** he walked.

**Thought 2.** When we read about **how** he loved his disciples, then we Christians know **HOW** we’re supposed to **LOVE!** Love will comfort, teach, provide for, and even **REBUKE!** But, due to **NOT** knowing the scriptures, and what love **IS,** **SOME** **refuse** to **BE LOVED** like he’s commanded and actually **REJECT** the **LOVE** that he’s sent to help them!

**Revelation 3:19,** As many as **I LOVE,** **I rebuke** and **chasten...**

**1 Corinthians 13:6,** (*love*) Rejoiceth **not** in iniquity, but **rejoiceth** in the **TRUTH...**

**Ephesians 5:25-27, Husbands, LOVE** your **wives,** even **AS Christ also LOVED** the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and **CLEANSE** it with the **washing** of water **by (because of)** the **WORD,** That he might present it to himself a glorious church, **NOT** having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be **holy (PURE)** and without blemish.

**Thought 3.** This was done when we believed the word (gospel) about Jesus! The Holy Spirit baptized (**washed**) us and placed into the body of Christ! (Acts 1:5)

**Ephesians 5:28-30,** So ought **men** to **LOVE their wives AS** their **own bodies.** He that **LOVETH** his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet **HATED** his **OWN** flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even **AS** the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

**Colossians 3:19, Husbands, LOVE your wives,** and **be NOT bitter** against them.