

The Great Commandment

HELPFUL SCRIPTURES

SERMON NOTES

I. What It Means to Love the Lord With All Your Mind

A. Loving God with our mind means pursuing truth

1. God commands us to use our minds to discern His will.

Romans 12:2

Ephesians 4:23

2. It requires an intellectual devotion which transforms our thinking

1 Corinthians 14:33

B. Loving God with our mind means taking every thought captive

1. Scripture emphasizes the battleground of the mind.

2 Corinthians 10:5

Proverbs 23:7

Colossians 3:2

C. Loving God with our mind means seeking wisdom, not just knowledge

1. Knowledge fills the head; wisdom directs the life.

Proverbs 2:6

James 1:5

II. What Loving the Lord With All our Mind Does Not Mean

A. It does not mean relying on human reasoning over revelation

1. God warns that human wisdom cannot lead to righteousness.

Proverbs 3:5

1 Corinthians 1:25.

B. It does not mean a cold, intellectual faith devoid of devotion

1. Scripture condemns knowledge that produces pride.

1 Corinthians 8:1

III. How Jesus Demonstrated Love for the Father With His Mind

A. Jesus loved the Father by knowing the Scriptures deeply

1. He quoted Scripture accurately and used it with precision.

Matthew 4:4, 7, 10

2. He reasoned carefully with His opponents.

Matthew 22:29

B. Jesus helped His apostles (and us!) understand God's word

1. He knew the Father's purpose for their lives.

Luke 24:44-45

Luke 19:10

2. He evaluated every decision in light of the Father's mission.

John 5:30

IV. Practical Ways to Love God With All Our Mind

A. Fill your mind with Scripture daily (Psa. 1:2)

B. Examine everything through God's Word (1 Thessalonians 5:21)

1 John 4:1, 6

C. Engage your mind in worship and service (1 Corinthians 14:15)

Colossians 3:16

Conclusion:

Matthew 28:19–20

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

“Loving the Lord Your God With All Your *Mind*”

Mark 12:28–30

Introduction

When Jesus summarized the entire Law and the Prophets, He spoke of four ways we are to love God:

- with *all your heart*,
- with *all your soul*,
- with *all your mind*,
- and with *all your strength*.

Each word reveals a dimension of devotion that God rightfully expects from His covenant people.

We have already studied what it means to love God with our **heart**—our affections, desires, and loyalties—and with our **soul**—our whole life, our identity, our loyalty unto death.

Now Jesus says our love must involve the **mind**.

Our world often separates faith and thinking. Many believe faith is emotional, irrational, or purely mystical. But Jesus teaches the opposite:

Loving God requires a mind that is renewed, disciplined, and saturated with truth.

You cannot love God supremely unless you learn to *think* like God.

Today we will look at:

1. What it means to love God with all your mind.
2. What it does *not* mean.

3. How Jesus demonstrated this love.
4. Practical ways we can pursue this today.

I. What It Means to Love the Lord With All Your Mind

A. Loving God with your mind means pursuing truth

A Christian is not called to turn off the brain, but to renew it.

1. God calls for intellectual devotion

- **Romans 12:2** — “Be transformed by the renewing of your mind...”
Transformation begins where? In the mind, not the emotions.
- **Ephesians 4:23** — “...be renewed in the spirit of your mind.”

2. Scripture gives understanding

- **Psalm 119:130** — God’s word “gives understanding to the simple.”
- **Psalm 19:7** — “The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.”

God wants thinking, reasoning, discerning disciples.

Application:

You cannot love God fully with a biblically empty mind.

We study because we love God.

We meditate because we want His truth to shape how we live.

We read Scripture not merely for knowledge, but for transformation.

B. Loving God with your mind means guarding your thoughts

The greatest spiritual battles are not fought in the church building but in the mind.

1. Scripture emphasizes mental warfare

- **2 Corinthians 10:5** — “take every thought captive to Christ.”
- **Proverbs 23:7** — “As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.”
- **Colossians 3:2** — “Set your mind on things above.”

2. The mind is shaped by input

Whatever fills the mind will eventually shape the heart and behavior.

Illustration:

If you plant weeds in a garden, you cannot be surprised when weeds grow.

Likewise, if we fill the mind with lust, fear, anger, materialism, or filth, we cannot expect a godly heart or a faithful walk.

Application:

- What we watch matters.

- What we read matters.
- What we ponder in moments of quiet matters.
- The mind we feed is the mind we develop.

Loving God with the mind means intentionally steering thoughts toward righteousness.

C. Loving God with your mind means seeking wisdom, not mere knowledge

Knowledge fills the head; wisdom directs the life.

1. Wisdom comes from God

- **James 1:5** — “If any lacks wisdom, let him ask of God.”
- **Proverbs 2:6** — “The Lord gives wisdom.”

2. Wisdom helps us apply God’s Word

Knowledge can lead to pride (1 Cor 8:1).

Wisdom leads to obedience (James 3:17).

Application:

Bible knowledge is not enough.

We love God with the mind when Scripture becomes our worldview, not just facts we store.

II. What Loving the Lord With All Your Mind Does *Not* Mean

A. It does not mean relying on human reasoning over revelation

Human intellect is a gift from God, but it must not rule over God’s Word.

1. Human wisdom is limited

- **Proverbs 3:5** — “lean not on your own understanding.”
- **1 Corinthians 1:25** — human wisdom collapses before God’s truth.

2. Many fall into intellectual arrogance

Philosophy, academia, and cultural trends often claim to be wiser than God.

Application:

We must never let culture, tradition, politics, or personal opinion overrule Scripture.

B. It does not mean cold, academic religion

Loving God with your mind is not simply filling notebooks.

1. Knowledge without devotion is hypocrisy

- **Titus 1:16** — “They profess to know God, but deny Him by their works.”

2. True biblical thinking produces love

- 1 Timothy 1:5 — “The goal of our instruction is love.”

Illustration:

A person can ace a Bible quiz and still fail to love God.
The Pharisees knew Scripture but did not know God.

Application:

Studying Scripture must lead to changed lives, softened hearts, and deeper devotion.

III. How Jesus Demonstrated Love for the Father With His Mind

A. Jesus loved the Father by knowing the Scriptures deeply

1. He used Scripture precisely

Matthew 4 — He answers every temptation with Scripture.
Matthew 22 — He argues resurrection using *verb tense*.

2. His mind was saturated with God’s Word

Even on the cross He quoted Scripture (Psalm 22:1).

Application:

If Jesus—the Word made flesh—needed the Word in His mind, how much more do we?

B. Jesus loved the Father by discerning God’s will

1. He understood His mission

- Luke 19:10 — “to seek and save the lost.”
- John 5:30 — “I seek not my own will but the will of Him who sent Me.”

2. He made every decision in light of that mission

His teachings, His travels, His timing—all aligned with the Father’s will.

Application:

Loving God with all the mind means thinking missionally.

C. Jesus loved the Father by evaluating everything through truth

1. He confronted lies with truth

He never let a false assumption stand.
Whether Pharisees, Sadducees, Pilate, or demons — He answered with truth.

2. Jesus’ mind was anchored in God’s character

He trusted the Father’s plan even when it led to Gethsemane.

Application:

A mind anchored in truth will stand firm when life's storms hit.

IV. Practical Ways to Love God With All Your Mind

A. Fill your mind with Scripture daily

Not for duty, but for transformation.

Scriptures

- Psalm 1:2
- Joshua 1:8
- Colossians 3:16

Application

A mind filled with Scripture will naturally love God more.

B. Evaluate everything through Scripture

“Is this true?”

“Is this wise?”

“Does God approve?”

Scriptures

- 1 Thessalonians 5:21
- Acts 17:11

Illustration:

Bank tellers are trained to detect counterfeit money by studying the real thing.

Christians detect spiritual falsehood the same way — by saturating the mind with the real Word of God.

C. Discipline your thinking

Train your mind the way athletes train their bodies.

Scriptures

- 1 Corinthians 9:27
- 2 Timothy 2:7
- Philippians 4:8

Application:

This may mean:

- cutting off sources of negativity

- turning off media that poisons the mind
- memorizing Scripture
- reading rich Christian material
- replacing worldly thought patterns with godly ones

D. Engage your mind in worship and service

- **1 Corinthians 14:15** — “I will pray with the spirit AND with the mind.”
- **Colossians 3:23** — serve “heartily unto the Lord.”

Application:

Worship is not mindless repetition.

It is thoughtful devotion directed toward God.

Conclusion

To love the Lord with all your mind is to let Scripture shape:

- how you think
- how you decide
- how you discern
- how you evaluate the world
- how you respond to temptation
- how you face trials
- how you walk through life

It means giving God full access to your intellectual life — your thoughts, your meditations, your worldview.

Jesus demonstrated this love perfectly:

His mind was full of Scripture, submitted to God’s will, and anchored in truth.

Our task: Follow His example.

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...”

— *Matthew 28:19–20*