

Only What the Father Says

December 10, 2017

Thank you so much for choosing to worship with us today. We are thrilled that you are here!

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: '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 mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Mark 12:29-31

For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Galatians 5:14

One of the most powerful lessons I hold from my father-in-law Phil Judd is based around the comments from Jesus when asked about the greatest commandment. The simple answer Jesus gave was to love God and love others. And then he says that there is no commandment greater than these. Wow! Think about that for a

few minutes. Out of all commandments we read. Out of all the "thus sayeth the Lord" directions we adhere to. Out of all the commands, examples, and necessary inferences we have identified. Jesus breaks it down to two things – love God, love others.

What if we changed our approach and based our lives in Christ **first** on loving God and loving others, then built everything else around that? Would we look at worship, fellowship and witnessing differently? We think we are good at rule keeping because we get a fake sense of control. Simply loving God and loving others allows the Spirit to move in us.

The powerful lesson: "*The measure of our love for God is our love for others.*" Pull out the yardstick of love and measure. You may just be surprised.

All Things for Christ,
Michael