**The Greatest Command!**

Mark 12:28-34

Last week we saw that only God’s “agape” love can meet our deepest need. His love is a gift. Christ tells us now, that what God longs for, is that we love Him in return!

1. **Background & Context:**
   1. **Focus on the Law** (Rules/Ritual)
   2. **The Purpose of the Law** (Guardian)
      1. Perfection
      2. Protection
      3. Provision
   3. **Faith in Simplest Form** (Relationship)
      1. Hosea 6:6
      2. Romans 13:8-10
2. **Obstacles to Loving God:**
   1. **Pride**
   2. **Invisibility**
   3. **Trials**
3. **How Do I Love God?**
   1. **Trust Him**
   2. **Obey Him**
   3. **Serve Him**

As we experience God’s supernatural love, it changes us! We begin to literally “fall in love with Him! Our willing obedience unlocks the door to our ongoing growth in His transformational love!

**Going Deeper:**

1. Can you think of a person who has exemplified God’s “agape” love? As you observed their life, what characteristics made them a living illustration of His supernatural love?
2. If someone asked you to explain God’s love, as opposed to human love, could you do it? What are the distinctives of “agape” love?
3. What are some of the things we substitute for the love of God? What things do we turn to instead of God, to meet our deepest needs?
4. Do you understand the importance of obedience in experiencing the love of God in your life? Do you agree that obedience is God’s love language?
5. Why is it so important to be continually in God’s Word if we are to deepen our experience of His love? What is the vital link between these two?
6. What is one of the primary ways you personally experience the love of God? What are some of the “connection points” that God uses to assure you of His agape love for you?
7. **Personal:** As you examine your own life (heart), do you feel you are learning to love God more deeply, or have you plateaued in this maturing process?

**Questions for Our Kids:**

1. If someone asked you what love is, what would you say? How would you explain love to that person?
2. The Bible tells us that God is love. Can you think of ways God has shown us just how much He loves us (hint: John 3:16)?
3. What are some of the ways that we can show God that we love Him? What could we do to let Him know just how we feel about Him?