

## The Greatest Commandment

### Description

[RG AUDIO 101114](#)

Matthew 22:34-46

It was not the first time the question had been asked, and the answer Jesus gave was not unique to Him. The students of the rabbis were schooled in these truths. These primary commands were not found in the Law itself, but were the context within which the Law was given.

How easily we too fall into the same trap as the Pharisees. They loved to interpret the Law and make applications in excruciating detail: you could walk only so many steps on the Sabbath. You had to make your Sabbath food preparations the day before. It went on and on.

Some in the Wesleyan-Holiness tradition used to measure hemlines, hair length, and a few other things, and could become very caustic in their criticism of those who failed the tests. What had been legitimate personal conviction for some became the rule of law for others.

Jesus, on the other hand, boiled all the commands down to their finest essence. All the Law and all the prophetic utterances were intended to bring us back to those fundamental expressions of holiness: Love God! Love your neighbors!

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