

# The Great Commandment

5/30/10

**Psalm 127:1-5; Psalm 128:1-6; Mt 22:34-40,**

**Galatians 5:13-14**, You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; **rather, serve one another in love.** 14 The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

1. "Life is relationships . The rest is just details ." Gary Smalley
2. Our fullest expression of our love for God and His Word (His Law and His Commandments) is how we love Him and others.
3. We are to serve one another in love .
4. The outworking of these truths and principles find their greatest challenges in the realities of relationships in marriage, family, church family, where we work...

- **What are some necessary steps required for us to live in and fulfill "The Great Commandment" ?**

1. A willingness to look inside .

**Mt 23:25-26**, "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, **but inside** they are full of greed and self-indulgence. 26 Blind Pharisee! **First clean the inside** of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

2. Painful honesty with ourselves and the Lord concerning what we see there  
\*\* the house of mourning, **Gary Beasley, Eccl 3:4**, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance; **Eccl 7:2**, It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for death is the destiny of every man; the living should take this to heart. **7:4**, The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of pleasure.

**Job 36:21**, Beware of turning to evil, which you seem to prefer to affliction.

**Psa 36:1-4**

**Prov 3:7**, Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.

**Prov 3:7**, Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil. **NLT**

**Prov 28:13**, He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

**Prov 28:13, TLB** A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them, he gets another chance.

- What do I need to look for when I ask God to reveal what's inside ?

Look for any unresolved or lingering pain of the past.

### 1. Perspective:

~ Living in the past or being stuck in the past leads to depression . **Eph 4:22-24**

~ Obsession with the future leads to anxiety and worry.

**Mt 6:34**, Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

**Phil 4:6**, Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

~ Living in the present with a basic trust in God leads to peace . **Isa 26:3-4, 12-14; Phil 4:6-7**, Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

2. **“Uniquely flawed”** -- a total lie from the devil. This lie leads to condemnation and defeat. We are all flawed (by sin) but none of us are uniquely flawed. **Rom 8:1-2**, Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

3. **Deception:** “If it’s painful to go there I must not need to, it will go away over time.” This lie leads to denial, a life of blindness and blaming others, and an insistence on having “my way only”.

**Jer 2:13**, "My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

- Success in relationships requires that we deal with and reconcile the past by taking honest inventory, and then living as the “new creation” that God created us to be. **2Cor 5:17**, Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

**Rom 8:28-29**, And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

29 For those God foreknew he also predestined **to be conformed to the likeness of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

**Galatians 5:1**, It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.