

(A man ask Jesus) "'Of all the commandments, which is the most important?' 'The most important one,' answered Jesus, 'is this...' '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


First Principle: Place the highest value on relationships.


First Commandment:


Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, & strength.

Loving God means:


1. Give Him all my affection.

 "You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. Exodus 20:4-5 (NLT)


 "For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks." Luke 6:45 (NIV)

 "As water reflects a face, so a man's heart reflects the man." Proverbs 27:19 (NIV)


2. Keep Him on my mind.

 "Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, 'Why do you entertain evil thoughts...?'" Matthew 9:4 (NIV)

3. Choose His will over mine.

 (Jesus prayed) "...your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Matthew 6:10 (NIV)


4. Look for ways to please Him.

 "How can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord." Psalm 116:12-13 (NIV)


Second Commandment: Love your neighbor as yourself.


Four spellings for love:

Love is spelled: Time


 "So they earnestly begged Jesus to help the man. 'If anyone deserves your help, he does,' they said, 'for he loves the Jewish people and even built a synagogue for us.'" Luke 7:4-5 (NLT)

Love is spelled: Risk


 "A Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine." Luke 10:33-34 (NIV)


 "To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken..." C.S. Lewis

Love is spelled: Choice

 "Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance." 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NLT)

Love is spelled: Worth

 "Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law." Romans 13:8 (NIV)

 "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you." John 15:15 (NIV)

