

Most Important
Mark 12:28-34
5-23-2010

Jesus was asked a very important question: “Of all the commandments, which is the most Important?” Jesus gave an answer that included both “Most Important” and second “Most Important” and concluded by closing His answer with: “There is no commandment greater than these.” The man who asked the question agreed with Jesus’ response concluding that to do those two commands was more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.

Do you suppose that Jesus would answer that question the same today? Isn’t it more important to be politically correct? Shouldn’t we love “mother earth” more than some fictitious god? Shouldn’t you love and respect animals more than people because they can’t protect themselves from humans? It is clear Jesus did not have enough choices to consider as He would if asked today.

Contemporary culture will never have the authority to dictate to God what is right and what is wrong, never! But that is only one side of the coin, contemporary culture will never have the authority to dictate to God what is right either. Notice Jesus’ response to the teacher of the law when the man agreed that Jesus was correct: “You are not far from the Kingdom of God.” Jesus could see that this man was close to getting it. Close to truly understanding what God wanted.

Our culture does not get it and how can it when it is in denial about the very existence of God? If God does not exist, then neither does the 1st commandment. Since the 1st commandment is invalid, then what makes number two “most important”? The new logic is: What about me? Am I

not more important than you? My rights are more important than you because I am more important.

It does not take a rocket scientist to see that this train of thought is some how wrong. The direction of the world is indeed a problem. You and I are challenged with teaching our children what is most important when they are forced by society to accept a different set of rules, ones that do not include God. Especially if His name is Jesus.

These two are still the most important: “*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 most important is this: “*Love your neighbor as yourself.*” There still is no commandment greater than these.

To be a Christian and live our lives as Christians means that these two commands have existence in our living. Paul says:

1Cor.8:6 yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

Jesus is Lord and we are compelled to Love Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. How does a person do that? What does it look like when a person is succeeding in loving the Lord Jesus with all their abilities? A life lived in obedience to His will would be evidence because Jesus says so. (John 14:15-24) The world does not obey because it does not love Jesus or God the Father, it does not even love each other. How can it?

The challenge of Christianity is being one. The secret to being a Christian is letting Jesus do His work in you as you let Him have dominion over each and every part of your life: the heart, the mind, the soul, and the strength. Let Him in so that He may do His work on and in and through you.