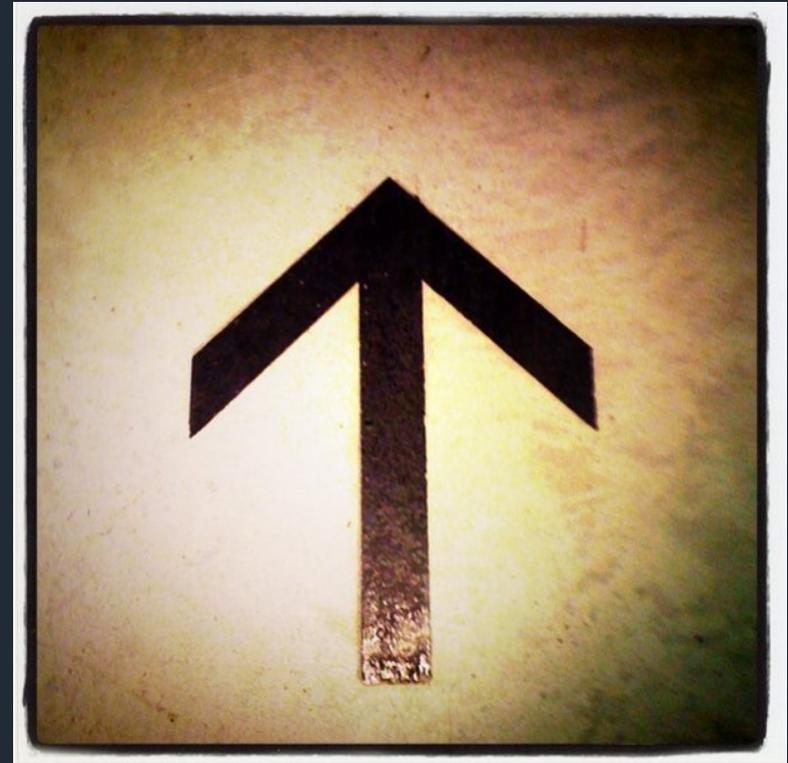


# Seeing the Big Picture



# Foundations of Our Faith



- Scripture to remember:  
Matthew 22:34-40

# Matthew 22:34-40

<sup>34</sup> But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together.

<sup>35</sup> One of them, a lawyer, asked Him *a question*, testing Him,

# Matthew 22:34-40

36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?”

# Matthew 22:34-40

**37** And He said to him, “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’

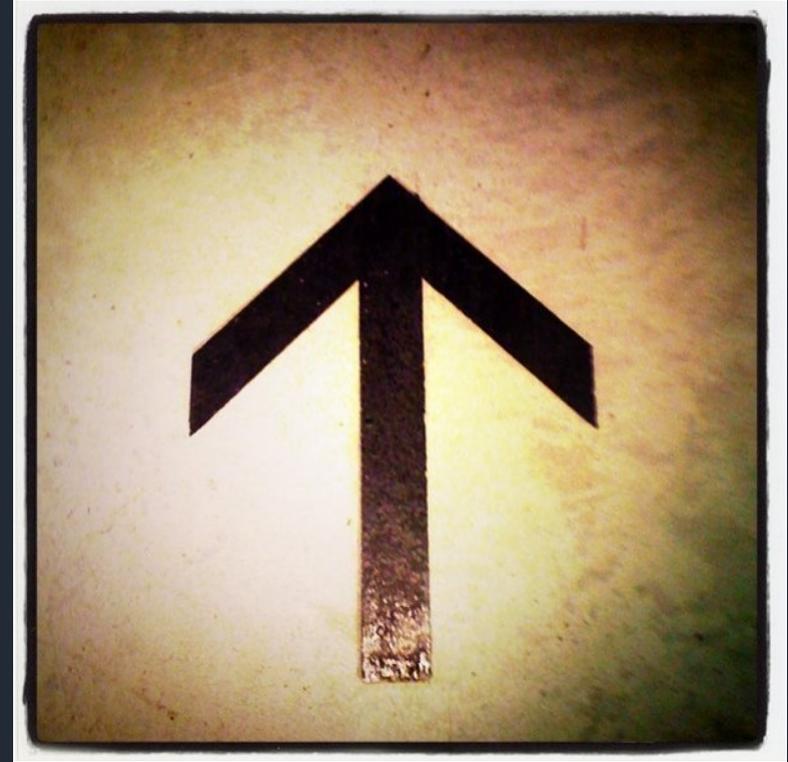
**38** This is the great and foremost commandment.

# Matthew 22:34-40

<sup>39</sup> The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

<sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

# Foundations of Our Faith



- These two commands show us that love is a choice!

# Matthew 22:39

**39** The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

# Matthew 7:12

**12** “In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

# Why It's Difficult



1) It's difficult because of my self-centeredness.

# John 13

<sup>12</sup> So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined *at the table* again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you?”

<sup>13</sup> You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am.

# John 13

**14** If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

**15** For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.

# John 13

<sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you,  
that you love one another,  
even as I have loved you, that you  
also love one another.

<sup>35</sup> By this all men will know that you are  
My disciples, if you have love for one  
another.”

# Philippians 2:3-8

- <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;
- <sup>4</sup> do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

# Philippians 2:3-8

- <sup>5</sup> Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,
- <sup>6</sup> who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

# Philippians 2:3-8

<sup>7</sup> but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men.

<sup>8</sup> Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

# Why It's Difficult



2) It's difficult because people have and will hurt me.

# Matthew 5:43-48

43 “You have heard that it was said,  
‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and  
hate your enemy.’

# Matthew 5:43-48

<sup>44</sup> But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

<sup>45</sup> so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous.

# Matthew 5:43-48

<sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

<sup>47</sup> If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing *than others*? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

# Matthew 5:43-48

**48** Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

# Romans 12:21

**21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

# Why It's Difficult



3) It's difficult because people are different from me.

# Luke 10:25-37

28 And He said to him, “You have answered correctly; DO THIS AND YOU WILL LIVE.”

29 But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

# Luke 10:25-37

<sup>36</sup> Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' *hands*?"

<sup>37</sup> And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."

**Love Thy Neighbor**

**Thy Homeless Neighbor**

**Thy Muslim Neighbor**

**Thy Black Neighbor**

**Thy Gay Neighbor**

**Thy White Neighbor**

**Thy Jewish Neighbor**

**Thy Christian Neighbor**

**Thy Atheist Neighbor**

**Thy Racist Neighbor**

**Thy Addicted Neighbor**

# Genesis 1:27

<sup>27</sup> God created man in His own image,  
in the image of God He created him;  
male and female He created them.

# Revelation 5:9

<sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying,  
“Worthy are You to take the book and  
to break its seals; for You were slain,  
and purchased for God with Your blood  
*men* from every tribe and tongue and  
people and nation.

# Second for a Reason



# Matthew 22:39

**39** The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

# 1 John 4:7-8

- <sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
- <sup>8</sup> The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

# Second for a Reason



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God is serious about how we treat others – let's recommit ourselves to living out the 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment!

# Receiving God's Salvation

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Hear

Hear/learn  
about Christ  
(Rom. 10:17)

Believe

Believe in  
Christ  
(John 8:24)

Repent

Repent/Turn  
to Christ  
(Acts 3:19)

Confess

Confess your  
faith in Christ  
(Romans  
10:9-10)

Be Baptized

Baptism into  
Christ  
(Acts 2:38,  
Rom 6:3-4)

# Galatians 6:2

<sup>2</sup> Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.