

The Greatest Commandment

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

“The most important one”, answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, 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 is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

— Mark 12:27–31 (NIV).

The greatest commandment is TO LOVE GOD.

May we see you more clearly,
Love you more dearly,
And follow you more nearly,
Day by day.

— The Prayer of Richard of Chichester

To love God, we must SEE HIM.

There have been times when I think that we do not desire heaven; but more often I have found myself wondering whether, in our heart of hearts, we have ever desired anything else. All the things that have ever deeply possessed your soul have been but hints of it — tantalising glimpses, promises never quite fulfilled, echoes that died away just as they caught your ear.

— C. S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*.

The things we love are SHADOWS OF REALITY.

They worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise!

— Romans 1:25b.

We must not love shadows INSTEAD OF REALITY.

The Lord replied, “I will make all my goodness pass before you [...] But you may not look directly at my face, for no one may see me and live.”

— Exodus 33:19–20.

We cannot LOOK DIRECTLY AT GOD.

All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.

— 1 Corinthians 13:12.

One day we will LOOK DIRECTLY AT GOD.