

6.7b.B (48). House Commanded to Love Others: Self-Less Love. Mark 12:31-34

As a Household shepherd, be sure that your household's relationship with God is foundational—to love God sacrificially, offering our entire lives to him, is what it means to be both part of his family and also *created beings* who must always “fear God”—to honor God and sanctify him alone as “holy”—having the highest place, the “Headship” over all his creation. In this way, though Job was greatly beloved, he was still esteemed by God as being “blameless and upright, a man who fears God and turns from evil” as God’s “servant” (Job 1:8). Thus, by his great mercy, the Lord God includes us into his family and house by rebirth, but we must always worship him as our “Lord God”—notice the *Son of Man*’s response to Satan: “You shall worship the Lord your God and serve him only” is the Son of God’s act of

subjection, even if he is a son (Matthew 4:10). Thus, teach as foundational a *loving worship of God*—as a never-ending commitment to *fear God* as sons. As Paul says:

I appeal to you therefore, brothers,^[a] by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.^[b] ² Do not be conformed to this world,^[c] but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
Romans 12:1-2

And, from this *fear of God*—this worshipful *subjection* we have to our Father as his servants,

we must obey the command to “love your neighbor as your Self” (Mark 12:31).

Now, let me make a point as a fellow shepherd over God’s household. I’ve seen far too many cases when this 2nd Commandment has not been obeyed, and it has ruined many, many households. Clearly, family members intent on following the flesh and not the Spirit will break the 2nd command to love others by humbling our own Self-importance and Self-interest, which are characteristics of the flesh. But, the cause traces back to this first commandment—are we living *sacrificially in chesed* with the Lord God? Do we fear the Lord and are *offering to him* our very lives?

Only by obeying the first command, to have the “fear of God,” can we avoid brazenly putting our “Self” on a pedestal, as a priority to *manipulate*,

control, or harden our hearts against the other members of our household.

How to love your neighbor as your Self

Again, in the flesh, we love only the “Self.” We prefer ourselves over others, we trust only ourselves, and seek to honor, indulge, enjoy, and be ruled only by our own Self. Such a *fleshly life* will not even subject itself to God truly, but only in religious superficiality.

So, to love our neighbor as our “Self” is to dethrone the “Self” from the highest place of priority in our lives. For, if we give up Self-interest, we can then consider and satisfy the interests of others. And, this is the “sacrificial love” which we display in the family.

Of course, only God deserves our Sacrificial Love as Worship. However, when direct to other brothers and sisters, our sacrificial love take the form of preference, of care, and of even service.

As Paul says:

³ Do nothing from **selfish** ambition or conceit, but in **humility** count others **more significant** than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the **interests** of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, Philippians 2:3-5.

So, we may not want to forgive our brother, not feel like it, but out of *fear* of the Lord we sacrifice—offer, give up this hardness that we might release the brother from his debt to us. For the sake of Jesus our Lord!

Verse.

³¹ The second is this: ‘You shall **love your neighbor** as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:31

Background:

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Give as if to Self:
Honor, Interest,
Care, Help, Love,
Kindness,

Love Others

As your Self!

**Protect from as
Self:** Abuse, Harm
Accusation,
Blame, Neglect,
Lack, Deprivation

Deny Self

Self-Honor, Selfishness
Self-Indulgence, Self-
Rule, Self-Importance/
Interest/ Ambition/
Love/ Understanding

Focus:

7: **House Commanded to Love others:** Self-less
Love:

1. **Love** Others **Selflessly:** Equal to your “Self” (12:31)
2. **Love** outweighs religious acts (33)
3. **Love** Brings **Near Kingdom:** (34)

Consider:

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Question:

Further Discovery: