

Wholehearted Love

The First and Great Commandment (Mt 22:38)

Love God with all your **Heart**, Soul, Mind, Strength (Mt 12:37, Mk 12:30, Lk 10:27)

1) Do you Love God with this **Intensity**?

Beware of Love as an **Obligation** (Commandment)

ex: Marriage (Eph 5:25)

Obligatory Love created Pharisees

(Isa 29:13) Therefore the Lord said: “Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men,

Jesus quotes this to Pharisees (Mt 15:8-9, Mk 6:6-7)

Nature of Love demands **Voluntary Love** (Free Will, evil)

2) Does God Love you with this **Intensity**?

The Shema: Great Commandment Recited Daily (Pharisees)

(Dt 6:4-5) Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

“Shema” = Hear, Understand, Heed, Obey, Proclaim

Why is this Declaration so important?

Why is it paired with our Wholehearted Love Response?

“One” same as Gen 2:24 (OT/NT Marriage Language)

“One” = Love (Jn 17:20-26)

The Trinity is Unified in Intense Love

(Ep 1:6) ... He made us accepted in the Beloved.

(Col 1:13) He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

God built a Kingdom based on His Love for His Son

God Loves us so much He gave that Son (Jn 3:16) so we could join the Beloved and Love His Son with Him

more **Invitation** than Command - Path to Relationship with God (Deut 6:4-15)

(Je 29:13) you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Path to Him not Effort or Obligation, but Responsive Love (1 Jn 4:19)

The Shema: Understand We Dwell in Intense Love! Join Us!

(Jn 15:9) As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.