



[Matthew 22:36-40](#)

(36) "Master, which commandment *is the* great commandment in the Law?" (37) And Jesus 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* first and greatest commandment; (39) And *the* second *one is* like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' (40) On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

[Mark 12:28-31](#)

(28) And one of the scribes who had come up to Him, after hearing them reasoning together and perceiving that He answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?" (29) Then Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is, 'Hear, O Israel. Our one God is the Lord, the Lord. () (30) And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. (31) And the second is like this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

[Luke 10:25-28](#)

(25) Now a certain doctor of the law suddenly stood up, tempting Him and saying, "Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" (26) And He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?" (27) Then he answered and said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." (28) And He said to him, "You have answered correctly. Do this, and you shall live."

A Faithful Version

Jesus Christ's response to the Pharisee's question shows that He divided the [Ten Commandments](#) into two sections or tables. He covers the first four by saying, "You shall [love](#) the LORD your [God](#) with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your

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mind.' This is the first and great commandment" (verses 37-38). This supersedes all other commandments; none is greater. The second, covering the last six, is similar to it. "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (verse 39).

God also arranged each section to begin with the most important command. He placed first the commandment, which, if kept, will ensure the greatest benefit to our lives, both physically and spiritually. On the other hand, if we break this commandment, it will cause the most damage to our worship of God or to the community by virtually ensuring that we will break others. In the first table of the law, this commandment is, "You shall have no other gods before Me" ([Exodus 20:2](#)). In the second, it is the [fifth commandment](#) : "Honor your father and your mother that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you" (verse 12).

Just as the [first commandment](#) governs our [relationship with God](#), the fifth commandment is first among those that govern our relationships with men. When we keep it or break it, it affects those relationships. Not only is it chief in this section, it also acts as a bridge between the two tables of the law. When we keep the fifth commandment properly, it leads us to revere and obey God Himself.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:
[The Fifth Commandment \(1997\)](#)

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