

# Bible Study Questions

## ***Love – Mark 12:28-34***

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### **Focus**

In response to a question from a curious scribe, Jesus once again teaches critical truth from the Scriptures. This time He explains that love for God and love for others is the central feature of God's law: we are to love God with all that we are and to love our neighbors unselfishly. Jesus the King will soon exhibit this very love and thus make it possible for us to be part of God's kingdom.

### **Read**

[Mark 12:28-34](#)

### **Listen**

CCNYC teaching on Mark 12 which can be found on our [website](#)

*As you study this passage on your own or with a small group of others, here are some questions for study, reflection, and application.*

### **Some Questions for Study and Reflection**

1. This scribe who approaches Jesus is the last of a long line of religious leaders who have been confronting Jesus in chapters 11 and 12. What, however, seems to be unique about this scribe compared to past confrontations?
2. What passages does Jesus quote from the Old Testament in answer to the scribe's question? Look those passages up and discuss both their context and significance.
3. What does Jesus teach about God here? Why is that important?
4. What does Jesus mean by saying that you are to love God "with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength"?
5. What does it mean to love our neighbors as ourselves? (How do we normally love ourselves? Who are our neighbors? Etc)
6. How do you make sense of the interchangeable language between singular and plural commandments at the end of verse 31? In what way are these

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- commandments – though distinct – intertwined? Can you think of other places in the Bible that connect these two types of love?
7. What makes this scribe both close to the kingdom of God and yet still not in the kingdom of God?

### **Closing Reflection and Application**

8. Does it surprise you that love is commanded? What does that tell you about how the Bible conceives of love?
9. Books and movies today often tell us that love is the supreme virtue. How do many of their definitions of love often seem to fall short of the Bible's emphasis?
10. How would you respond to the person who says, "Jesus is telling us we need to learn how to love ourselves first and then to love others?"
11. How has striving to love God with every fiber of your being helped you to love your neighbor as yourself?
12. How would you help disciple the person who claims to love God but who doesn't seem to love other people very well?
13. Work together as a group to think through ways that we as Christians, in our particular context, can unselfishly love our neighbors.
14. Sunday's sermon suggested that one way to love others as we love ourselves is to seek to do each other spiritual good, particularly those in our church. Did that application make sense to you? How might you go about applying it?
15. In what way has Jesus exhibited the kind of love that He commands here?