

A The main point of the Law:

❖ The two main commandments.

- How does love relate to the Law (Mt. 22:37-40; Dt. 6:5; Lv. 19:18)?
 - (1) Love God
 - I. May God be your only Love
 - II. God does not need intermediaries to receive your love
 - III. Show your love for God by respecting his name
 - IV. Spend Saturday connecting with the Creator and Redeemer you love.
 - (2) Love your neighbor
 - V. Love your parents at all times
 - VI. Show your love by respecting the lives and feelings of others
 - VII. Love your spouse and always be faithful
 - VIII. Love respects what belongs to the other
 - IX. Love without hurting with his words
 - X. Love without coveting what belongs to the one you love
- True justice is demonstrated by loving. That is what Jesus asked of the rich young man, who believed himself to be righteous: show with actions your love for others [“give to the poor”], and your love for God [“come, follow me”] (Mt. 19:16-22).

❖ The two main sins.

- There are two sins that are mentioned insistently throughout the Bible: idolatry and social injustice. These two sins are the antithesis of the two great commandments:
 - (1) Loving God VS. Worshipping Idols
 - (2) Loving others VS. Harming others
- Do you show your love for someone by doing the opposite of what he has asked of you? That is exactly what someone who bows down to an idol does. Even if he says he loves God, he denies Him with his actions; because not only does he not respect His Law, but he shows his love to an inanimate object, instead of to the Creator.
- Regarding love for others, Paul makes it very clear:
“Love does no harm to a neighbor” (Rom. 13:10).

B Love and Justice:

❖ God's love for justice.

- Since God loves justice (Ps. 33:5), it is logical that He would be angry with those who act unjustly.
- One of the clearest examples is found in Psalm 82, where Asaph shows us God's reaction to the attitude of the judges who had the responsibility of applying justice, but used their authority to act unjustly.
- These judges, called gods because of their position of responsibility – exercising justice by divine delegation (Ps. 82:1, 6; Jn. 10:34-36) – defend injustice and favor the wicked.
- God especially calls them to defend the helpless and the needy (Ps. 82:2-4 NIV). If they do not do so, they will die for their unrighteousness (Ps. 82:7).
- And this cry for justice does not concern only those who have judicial responsibilities. God demands that each of us do justice (Mic. 6:8; Dt. 16:20; Pr. 21:3; 1 Jn. 2:29).

❖ **The most important thing about the Law.**

- Tithing even the smallest thing is obeying the law and therefore doing what is right (Mt 23:23a). So why does Jesus say that the actions of the scribes and Pharisees set aside justice (Mt. 23:23b)?
- To do justice is not to be fair, but to apply the Law correctly to others. Hence, in the Law itself [the Pentateuch] there are exceptions to protect the helpless (Deut. 24:17-21).
- Nearly all the prophets have words of rebuke for those who act unjustly toward others or fail to apply justice in love (Is. 1:23; Jer. 22:3; Ez. 22:7; Zech. 7:10). For Isaiah, for example, seeking justice involves helping the helpless (Is. 1:17).
- Nehemiah was outraged when, under the protection of the law, the rich demanded the repayment of loans without taking into account the poverty of their brothers (Neh. 5:6-11).

❖ **Who is my neighbor?**

- Many understood that the command recorded in Leviticus 19:18 to love one's neighbor applied only to those who were Israelites. If you are not an Israelite, you are not my neighbor. However, not everyone held that view. Thus, one scribe who asked a question that he himself was capable of answering wanted to justify himself by asking, "Who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:25-29).
- Jesus did not reveal the nationality of the wounded man on the road to Jericho. Neither the priest nor the Levite, who were examples of fulfilling the Law, were interested in the helpless man. However, a "non-neighbor," a Samaritan, was "moved with mercy" and fulfilled the Law of loving one's neighbor as oneself (Luke 10:30-37).
- The enemy seeks power and cares about his own well-being. Jesus left his throne, humbled himself, and came down to serve others and give his life for us. Who will we imitate? Let us be followers and imitators of Jesus.