

Wednesday, August 22, 2018
Wednesday night couple's groups
Week 1
"From this day Forward"
Small group questions

FROM THIS DAY FORWARD—1

Main Idea:

Having a healthy marriage starts with seeking God together, as God is your "one" and your spouse is your "two".

- **What's one idea from the message that really stood out to you? Why did this idea grab your attention?**
- **Do a reality check: How much of a priority is seeking God together in your marriage? Why?**

Read and discuss Matthew 22:37-40

Points to help explain:

This is the first of the controversy stories in which Jesus gives a straight answer to the question, one with which many in his audience would have agreed and does not rebuke his interrogators either implicitly or explicitly. The verse reflects wholehearted devotion to God with every aspect of one's being, from whatever angle one chooses to consider it—emotionally, volitionally, or cognitively. This kind of "love" for God will then result in obedience to all he has commanded (cf. Deut 6:1–3, 6–9).

Going beyond the original question, Jesus adds a second commandment that is also foundational—Lev 19:18. "The second is like it" probably means that this commandment is of equal importance. These two commandments are the greatest because all others flow from them; indeed, the whole Old Testament "hangs" on them. In other words, all other commandments are summed up and/or contained in these.

Combining Jesus' teaching here with his approach to the law, as, e.g., in the Sermon on the Mount, demonstrates that while the principle of love remains constant, applications vary for different circumstances. The proper motivation for correct interpersonal relationships always remains a profound sense of gratitude for what God has done for us in Christ. This is where the love of Christ begins in us and flows to our marriage relationships.

- **How would you evaluate the current state of your marriage? Share what's good and what's not so good.**
- **Before you came tonight, were there any preconceptions you had of marriage that were challenged from hearing the**

message and discussion? What do you see needs to change in your marriage to reflect godly love?

ACTION STEP:

- **What's one thing you will do this week as a result of something you learned from this message?**

Take steps to seek God with your spouse this week by reading the following Bible passages together.

- **Matthew 22:34-40**
- **Matthew 6:25-34**
- **Jeremiah 17:5-8**