

Lecture 5 – Motivation of the Christian Life (Part III); The Standards of the Christian Life (Part I)

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” *Matthew 22:36-40 (NIV)*

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. Romans 13:8-10 (NIV)

Key Terms

Self-love, Torah (direction), disposition (*habitus*), Word of God, instruction

Objectives

- *Identify the means through which we know the will of God.
- *Explain the ways in which Scripture operates in giving direction.
- *Explain the importance of the biblical emphasis on disposition.

Motivation of the Christian Life (Part III)

[Review of previous lesson]

V. Neighbor Love (cont.)

C. Definition of neighbor love

1. The disposition to seek the good of another person created in the image of God as a member of our family, members of the body of Christ, or a member of the human community

D. The biblical ethic begins with the heart

1. Rational
2. Affectional
3. Volitional

E. John Murray

1. Love is emotive and motive

F. *Agape* and *agapao* according to Ernest DeWitt Burton, *Commentary on Galatians*

1. Recognize the value of something/appreciation or admiration
2. Desire for something valuable
3. Desire to benefit

VI. Self-Love

A. Does it have a place in Christian ethics?

B. “Love your neighbor as yourself” – interpretive options:

1. As you now sinfully love yourself—Calvin
2. As you just naturally love yourself—John Stott
3. As you rightly love yourself
4. Theo-centric self-regard

The Standards (Direction) of the Christian Life (Part I)

I. The Direction of Grace

Introduction

“Torah” –

Disposition

Obedient love

Ephesians 2:8-10

Directing principle

A. The Word of God

1. Prohibition—negative

a. Romans 13:10

2. Command—positive

a. Galatians 6:10

Questions & Answers