



## *Don't Stop at the Heart*

*One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, "What commandment is the foremost of all?" Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; 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.'"*

*Mark 12:28-30*

*A friend quoted this verse to me and made the grandiose statement, "If someone's love stops at the heart and soul, and does not extend to their mind as well, they're breaking God's Law." I have come to the conclusion that he's absolutely right.*

Too often we encounter those that do not define "love" according to biblical terms, but according to a worldly notion that leans more towards emotion and romance than obedience and discipline. Biblical love is more akin to a parent's love for their child that is so grounded in their desire for children to live a right and principled life, that they will actually guide and discipline and coax them down the right path. The love of a good parent actually results in the changed behavior of their child.

A parent's love is educational, grounded in communicating truth and facts. The child is always (and repeatedly) told why they're to do such-and-such. It's not enough for a parent to experience the deepest emotions of love ever recorded for a heart – we all know that if they fail to correct and guide their children that in the end they are actually bad parents. The emotion of love alone is not enough and must be accompanied by something more.

"Don't Stop at the Heart", Page 1 of 5

Nowhere in Scripture does it offer that it's enough to just "love". In this first of all the commandments to follow, the very first written by God Himself, He provides four conditions which must **ALL** be met equally:

- "All your heart"
- "All your soul"
- "All your mind"
- "All your strength"

The requirement is not to get at least two or three out of four, but to realize them all in order to achieve the biblical definition of what it means to "love" on our part.

I find it fascinating that these things are not equally present in every single person. We all have different capacities when it comes to our heart or strength, for instance; but the requirement is not to possess them in the same quantity as someone else, but to wholly commit what we do have to Him exclusively and completely. But going back to my friend's statement, I would agree that the most common attribute we fail to fully commit is "all your mind".

God does not want the blind commitment of the heart and soul and strength of one's entire life and character without the brain to think, reason, and commit intelligently. We can't err on the side of love at the expense of the mind. Both are required. Love cannot end at the chest and arms, but must extend above the neck as well. From the very beginning, God explains His actions, provides His Word to guide us, requires that understanding and knowledge be integral to our faith in, and relationship with, Him. Consider Solomon:

*"As for you, my son Solomon, **know** the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and **a willing mind**; for the Lord searches all hearts, and **understands every intent of the thoughts**. If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever."*

*1 Chronicles 28:9*

Solomon was fine as long as everything was in alignment and supporting love from his heart, soul, strength, and mind; but what happened when the heart was allowed supreme reign in these matters?

*For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been.*

*1 Kings 11:4*

David reminds us of the dual connection of the mind and heart according to God's requirements:

*I will bless the LORD who has counseled me;  
Indeed, **my mind instructs me** in the night.  
I have set the Lord continually before me;  
Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.  
**Therefore my heart is glad** and my glory rejoices;  
My flesh also will dwell securely.*

*Psalm 16:7-9*

*Examine me, O LORD, and try me;  
**Test my mind and my heart.***

*Psalm 26:2*

In fact, it's quite startling to pick up your concordance and peruse all the Scriptural references to "mind" and what they convey:

***The steadfast of mind** You will keep in perfect peace,  
Because he trusts in You.*

*Isaiah 26:3*

*I, the LORD, search the heart,  
**I test the mind,**  
Even to give to each man according to his ways,  
According to the results of his deeds.*

*Jeremiah 17:10*

*Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand **I myself with my mind am serving the law of God**, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.*

*Romans 7:25*

*Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove** what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

*Romans 12:1-2*

*One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person must **be fully convinced in his own mind.***

*Romans 14:5*

*Therefore let one who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but **my mind** is unfruitful. What is the outcome then? I will pray with the spirit and **I will pray with the mind also**; I will sing with the spirit and **I will sing with the mind also.***

*1 Corinthians 14:13-15*

***Set your mind** on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.*

*Colossians 3:2*

Isn't amazing how many areas of one's faith, walk, and obedience we are commanded to apply not just faith, not just love, not just our heart, but our *mind*! We're supposed to apply to our love and faith a mind that knows and understands why we believe, what we believe, and in Whom we believe. Just as our mind must be co-partners with our heart and soul and strength in the pursuit of love, so it is encouraged by God as an integral part of our response to Him.

*"Come now, and **let us reason together,**"*

*Says the LORD,*

*"Though your sins are as scarlet,*

*They will be as white as snow;*

*Though they are red like crimson,*

*They will be like wool.*

*Isaiah 1:18*

***I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know** what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His*

*"Don't Stop at the Heart", Page 4 of 5*

*right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.*

*Ephesians 1:18-21*

You see, this is why it deeply moves my soul to mourning when I hear things stated such as, "You don't need the Bible as much as you need faith" or "I'm sick of doctrine; who needs it?" People that want to de-emphasize or even completely eliminate the proper place of God's Word and Truth in your life are actually leading others to break God's Law. The road to deception and back-sliding begins with the closing of one's mind to rational thought and God's Word, relying instead on feelings and emotions at the expense of the mind.

We need to carefully consider that if we struggle in the consistency of our spiritual walk, the cause might be in direct proportion to the imbalance of the commitment of our heart, soul, strength, and mind. Just as all knowledge and no love is wrong, so is the opposite or any combination of these crucial elements that denies equal commitment of them all.

Finally, I would take this a last, further step to suggest that this is the problem with those that only commit to God for a couple of hours each Sunday morning. Going to church may indicate one's heart is in the right place, but not following up equally the rest of the week with one's soul, strength, and mind produces the kind of faith that stumbles and fumbles along from week to week and point to point, never seeming to mature.

If you **DO** love Him with all your heart, and if you **DO** love Him with all your soul, and if you **DO** love Him with every ounce of strength within you, I close with the challenge: Do you also love Him with all of your mind?

In His Love,

[Servant@LogosWalk.com](mailto:Servant@LogosWalk.com)

"Don't Stop at the Heart", Page 5 of 5