

Loving Others

Leviticus 19:9-18

9 ‘When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. 10 And you shall not glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather every grape of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I am the LORD your God.

11 ‘You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another. 12 ‘And you shall not swear by My name falsely, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the LORD. 13 ‘You shall not cheat your neighbor, nor rob him. The wages of him who is hired shall not remain with you all night until morning. 14 ‘You shall not curse the deaf, nor put a stumbling block before the blind, but shall fear your God: I am the LORD. 15 ‘You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor. 16 ‘You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD. 17 ‘You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. 18 ‘You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Where is the big fanfare for this, second of all commandments. The one concerning loving God begins with this attention getting, “Hear O Israel.” But this one just follows a whole list of what we might consider insignificant commands.

But that is not the case. Jesus points out that this command to love your neighbor as yourself is the second most significant command in all the Bible. “On these two,” Jesus said “hangs all the law.”

- I. This command is practical.
 - A. 9 ‘When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. 10 And you shall not glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather every grape of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I am the LORD your God.
 - B. You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another.
 - C. 13 ‘You shall not cheat your neighbor, nor rob him.
 - D. The wages of him who is hired shall not remain with you all night until morning.
 - E. 14 ‘You shall not curse the deaf, nor put a stumbling block before the blind, but shall fear your God: I am the LORD.
 - F. 15 ‘You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor.
 - G. 16 ‘You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

- H. 17 'You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him.
- I. 18 'You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people,
- J. You can obey all these thing and still not love your neighbor.
- K. But you cannot love your neighbor and do these things.