

Mark 12:28-34

²⁸ One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" ²⁹ Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰ 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.' ³¹ The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." ³² Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; ³³ and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,'—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." ³⁴ When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Proverbs 4:20-23

²⁰ My child, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings.
²¹ Do not let them escape from your sight; keep them within your heart.
²² For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh.
²³ Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

Psalms 37:4

⁴ Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

▲ **THEME:** "Align your Heart to Serve the Passions of God."

▲ DISCUSSION:

"God has wired our hearts with specific passions that release excitement in us, and they are meant to be unleashed in service as the Body of Christ. It is vital that we protect and guard our hearts, so these desires and passions do not become vandalized or greater than God's own heart."

1. The Bible uses the term "heart" to describe the bundle of desires, hopes, interests, ambitions, dreams, and affections you have. Your heart represents the source of all your motivations - what you love to do and what you care about most. Take some time now to share with one another "what moves your heart?"
2. Read Mark 12:28-34 together. What do you think Jesus meant when he said, "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart..."? How is that different than your soul, mind, and strength?
3. Read Proverbs 4:20-23 together. Solomon later says, "As a face is reflected in water, so the heart reflects the person" (Prov. 27:19). Your heart reveals the real you - who you truly are. From your heart flows the things we say, why we feel the way we do, and why we act the way we do. Reflecting on the state of your heart, "how is your heart?"
4. Read Psalm 37:4 together. What does it mean to "take delight"? What is often attributed to where our 'delights' are stored? If we delight in the Lord, what is it that God promises to give us?
5. As you "delight yourself in the Lord" you delight yourself in the things God is passionate about. As you seek after God, your heart begins to break for the things that break God's heart, and you celebrate the things that God rejoices over. What have you learned about God's heart that resonates with your own? This should serve as a clue as to how God has *shaped* you for serving others.

▲ SUPER SET

Need help discovering what moves your heart?
 For us to be in the best spiritual SHAPE we can be,
 we all need to **Align our Hearts** to serve the heart of God.

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