

Introduction:

Texts: Matthew 22:37-40; 1 Thessalonians 5:23

A. Textual Analysis

1. In Matthew 22:37 and 39, the operative word is love, an action verb, not a noun.
2. The objects of this love are: God, others, and ourself.
3. Love for God and love for others is the heart of the 613 Commandments in the Old Testament Law.
4. 1 Thess. 5:23 teaches that man is made of spiritual and physical elements.

B. The Texts Implicit Exposition

1. God's personal existence is verified by His greatest commandment.
2. God's supreme standard for moral ethics (Matt. 22:39; 7:12).
3. God's invaluable worth deserves our best and highest worship (Rev. 4:11; 5:9).

C. The Texts Imperative Application

1. Our reason for loving God (Rom. 5:8; 1 John 4:19).
2. Our love relationship with God is based on mutual love between Him and us (John 14:15, 23).
3. Our intelligent response to love God is our free choice because we are not brainless robots.

D. The Text Inclusive Benediction

1. Here is the benediction (1 Thess. 5:23).
2. The positive effect of our personal sanctification on others (1 Thess. 5:13b-22).

Conclusion:

Read: Matthew 22:37-40 and 7:12

1. Give your best reasons why God deserves your wholehearted love.
2. In what practical ways can you show that wholehearted love for God is your highest priority in life?
3. How does your love for God influence and impact your love for others?
4. What is healthy self-love, and what is selfish self-love?
5. How can these Scriptures make you guilty of the sin of omission?

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:13-23

6. How do the 15 exhortations in verses 13-22 relate to the benediction in v. 23?
7. Which of these exhortations are most challenging or encouraging to you this time?
8. Why does v. 23 end this benediction with the coming of our Lord Jesus?

PRAY!