

HOW TO LOVE GOD WITH ALL YOUR MIND?

Mark 12:28-34

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What does it mean to love (agape) God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind, and with all your strength (Mark 12:30)? It means to love him with every aspect of your being; it is personal, comprehensive, sincere, & demands your life, your all.

The “**heart**” emphasizes your **deep-seated affections**, your inner desires; it is the control center of your human personality.

The “**soul**,” while it is a rich concept with a variety of meaning, we can say at least it emphasizes your **conscious thought life**.

The “**mind**” emphasizes your **capacity to think, reason, understand, and make judgments**.

“**Strength**” emphasizes your **bodily powers** (physical & emotional capabilities).

When you place your trust in Jesus Christ as Savior (faith alone in Christ alone for salvation) you are given a new mind, a new heart, & a new will. Thus, when you, the child of God, *yield* your *entire being* unto God (mind toward God to know Him, your heart to love Him, & your will to obey Him) then you are in fellowship with God. In his work, *Designed to be Like Him*, J. Dwight Pentecost makes the following observation:

“...if any area of your personality is not in harmony with Him, then you are not enjoying fellowship with God. And because fellowship with Him is the reason we were created and then re-created in His image [2 Cor. 5:17; 3:18; Romans 8:29; 1 Cor. 2:16; Col. 3:10], we cannot glorify God apart from that fellowship (pp. 28-9).”

Regarding the study of the mind we could approach this topic in at least four different ways:

1. We could consider the necessity of committing our minds to the knowledge & right application of Scripture.
2. We could focus on the need of preparing the mind given the demand to offer the best answers to the deepest problems in our society, & reasoning with & refuting those who are warring for the minds of others in this bankrupt & growing hostile culture (Acts 17; 1 Pet. 3:15).
3. We could examine whether an open-mind or a close-mind shows God the most love.

4. We could discern how we might recapture the life of the mind for the glory of Christ given the anti-intellectualism that permeates our evangelical churches.

How can I love God with my whole mind?

1. Remember that to love God is to intimately know Him (Mark 12:30; Phil. 3:7-11).
2. Every day offer your mind to Him as an expression of worship-just like your heart and soul (Romans 12:2).
3. Make Jesus Christ the Focus of your mind, for He is the fullest revelation of God (John 14:7-11; John 5; Philippians 3:12-16).
4. Don't merely read the Scripture-meditate upon it (Psalm 19:7-11; Romans 12:2; Phil. 4:8).
5. Bring every thought into captivity to the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 10:3-5)
6. Continually submit your mind to the control of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:15-16; Eph. 4:22-23; Romans 12:1-2).
7. Protect your mind by both discarding the way you once lived as a non-believer and by the *serious* exercise of prayer (Ephesians 5:8-17; Phil. 4:6-7).
8. “*Be*” single-minded, not double-minded (James 1).
9. Cultivate a mind of moral and intellectual excellence (Philippians 2; 1 Peter 1). God is concerned with harmonization of both your inward character and outward conformity to God's Word (being and doing).

Let me re-translate verse 30. *You shall love the Lord your God out from your deep-seated affections and from out of your conscious thought-life and out from your ability to understand, reason, and judge and out from your bodily capabilities.*

“Let the mind of the Master be the master of your mind.”

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