

Title: The Object of Love

Scripture: Matthew 22:34-40

Speaker: Vic Redding

Date: January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013

*Matthew 22:34: "But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together. 35 Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, 36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."*

Love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength. You cannot serve God and Satan. You have to choose one way or another. Matthew 6:24 says: *"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."*

The Bible tells us to love our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 22:39). Who is your neighbor? In this verse, the Palestinians thought this to mean the person they lived next to. It refers to ANYONE you come in contact with during your life each day.

There are three groups of people that we should love:

1. **All humanity:** The golden rule that we always hear is "do unto others as you would have them do to you." Romans 12:18 gives us a rule to live by: *"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."* Everyone has struggles, and we all have bad days. There's no reason to take it out on others. This is mentioned in Romans 13:10 *"Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law"*, and in Luke 10.
2. **The Saints:** Romans 12:10: *"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another"*. Christians are the only soldiers who kill their own wounded. We forget that we are to care for one another when one is down. John 17 is a chapter that describes the care Christ took for us. John 13:35 says *"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."* Christ knows us as his disciples by the love that we show to our fellow brothers and sisters. I John 4:20 also gives an example of how we should act toward one another in our Christian walk: *"If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?"*
3. **The lost:** Matthew 9:35-38 describes the burden we should have for the lost. In order to understand this burden, we must first love the lost. *"And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. 36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. 37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; 38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."*

The virtue of love means to refine. To be free from moral imperfections. Love refines because It purifies. I Corinthians 13 is an example of this. Love can cover a multitude of sins.