

NEVER READ A BIBLE VERSE*

'And 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.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.'

Mark 12:30-31

*Without Context.

14. Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin

TODAY'S VERSES:

Mark 12:30-31

Luke 18:13

Luke 23:43

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

James 4:8-9

Romans 12:9

1 Timothy 1:15-16

Matthew 7:1

RECAP & DISCUSSION STARTERS:

The popular phrase, "Love the sinner, hate the sin," while not found in Scripture, can be lived out in wisdom, but also prone to potential misuse. The Scriptures present sin (wandering off the path, broken, blemish, rebellion, owing a debt, going astray, lawlessness, impurity) as widespread, damaging, and deserving of serious struggle. Sin isn't only future punishment, but is a present destructive power—separation from God and others. Christians should hate all sin, especially their own, asking God for conviction and pursuing confession, accountability, and forgiveness.

Jesus was called a "friend of sinners," but He never used this phrase, instead, He asked "what type of neighbor are you?" Pride comes as we justify our own judgmental attitude rather than loving others. When churches become the "moral police" rather than Gospel-centered communities, they miss their calling. Christians don't need to first be experts at pointing out others' sins, but at bringing our own sin to the cross and become leaders in grace, forgiveness, and Christ-like love.

- How does Jesus' willingness to be called "friend of sinners" reveal His heart toward those caught in destructive patterns, and what does this teach us about His mission?
- What can we learn from Jesus' different approaches to addressing sin throughout the Scripture? For instance, consider how he interacts with the Pharisees, tax collectors, and prostitutes?
- In what ways did Jesus demonstrate hatred for sin while simultaneously showing love for sinners, and how can we follow this example?
- How does Jesus' response to the woman caught in adultery ("Go and sin no more") balance grace with the call to holiness?
- What can we learn from Jesus' method of bringing people to conviction of sin through relationship and love rather than condemnation?
- How does Jesus' emphasis on heart transformation rather than external rule-keeping challenge our approach to personal holiness and church community?
- In what ways does Jesus' sacrifice on the cross demonstrate both the seriousness of sin and the depth of God's love for sinners, and how should this shape our evangelism?