

Loving God: The First Commandment Restored to First Place

Turn to page eleven, if you would. We are going to look at loving God: the first commandment restored to first place. Father, in the name of Jesus, we ask you to release the activity of your Spirit upon the Word of God. Release the activity of your Spirit, even now upon the speaking, and the hearing of your Word. And we thank you in Jesus' name, Amen.

Well, the Holy Spirit is calling the Church who is listening. If we are listening to what we are saying, He is calling the Church to the first commandment. In Matthew 22:37-38, it makes it clear what the first commandment is. Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all of your heart, with all of your soul, and with all of your mind." This is the first commandment— this is the great commandment. Now, we think of the Ten Commandments. We think, "Well, what is the first commandment of the Ten Commandments?" What Jesus is saying is, "Even beyond the Ten Commandments, this is the one that is the priority over all the others."

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT RESTORED TO FIRST PLACE

And before Jesus returns, the Holy Spirit is going to restore the first commandment to first place across the Body of Christ worldwide. Right now—today—the first commandment is in the top ten, but it is not in first place. It is not the premier focus of the Body of Christ. But, the Holy Spirit is speaking to you right now, if you are listening. He is speaking to the ministries in churches across the earth: "I want the first commandment to be first priority of every believer of every ministry, of every local church, and every youth group. Whatever else they do, they must make first priority that they would love Me with all of their heart, their mind, their soul and their strength."

And if that is something that you are not thinking about that much, then receive this teaching today, adjust your heart, and say, "Okay. Okay Lord, I hear what the Spirit is saying, okay. That is right, I am going to make this number one."

Church growth is not the number one thing. Getting a large number of people listening to our ministry is not the number one thing. There is nothing wrong with that, but that is not the number one thing. Making people happy, making sure they like us, and they like our ministry is not number one. Winning people to the Lord

is not number one. That is way up at the top of the list. Beyond everything, there is one commandment above every commandment: “Set your heart to love Me with all of your heart.” If we love him with all of our heart—now none of us do that perfectly, or fully—but, we have set our heart to grow in that way.

AIMING NOT ATTAINING

I am not talking about attaining to it. I am talking about aiming for it. I have not attained to it, but I am aiming for it. And as long as we are aiming for it, we are in the right spirit, we are in the right way. But, if I am a believer that is setting my heart to love God first, I will witness to people in a different way. I will have a different approach in my ministry to help the broken, to help the oppressed, to help those who are in need. I will approach them differently, if this commandment is first in my mind.

EQUALLY YOKED TO GOD IN LOVE

Paragraph B. Jesus wants us to be equally yoked to Him in love. God wants us to love Him with all of our heart because He loves us with all of His heart. Can you imagine God loves you with all of His mind, with all of His strength, and all of His heart? Jesus loves you. Imagine: Jesus who created the heavens, and the earth loves you with all of His mind.

When I look up at the sky, Jesus created the heavens. He is really smart. I mean powerful, yes. But, He is really smart. I look up, and He says, “I love you with all of my mind. Wow. I am I really special. If you love me, with all of your mind, I have it made. It does not matter what anyone else thinks, I have it made.”

He loves me with all of His mind, and all of His strength. I have it made. No matter what else happens, I have it made forever. Jesus says, “I want you to love Me with all of your heart, and mind, because I love you with all of My heart and all of My mind.”

GOD’S ULTIMATE PURPOSE FOR CREATION IS TO HAVE A FAMILY

Paragraph C. God the Father’s purpose: why did He even create the heavens and the earth? Have you ever asked the question? Misty mentioned she asked the question, “Why God? Why did you create? Why did you save us? Why are we alive? Why? Why? Why?” She said that she has asked all of her life. We want to know the why behind the what. We know the what. He created the heavens, and the earth. We know the what—He saved us.

But why did He create? And why did He save us? What is the why behind the what? God the Father wants a family. God the Father wants His son, His beloved son Jesus to have an eternal companion who is equally yoked to Him in love. The Father longed for a family. But there is more than that. He longed that His son who would have an eternal companion, and be equally yoked to Him in love. So therefore, He created the heavens and the earth. And therefore, He accomplished salvation. He wants a family, and He wants a bride for His son.

MANDATORY OBEDIENCE

Paragraph one, under paragraph C. Obedience is mandatory—meaning you do not have a choice. Now, you have a choice in this life to obey Jesus or not. But in a minute—all of us—this life will be done for all of us in a minute. Whether it is fifty years or a hundred years, it will be gone in a minute.

Every single human being throughout all of history, every angel, every demon, every created being will bow their knees in obedience to Jesus as King of Kings forever. So, you will obey Him forever one way, or the other. That is for sure. The problem is, if people refuse that in this age, they will bow their knee, they will obey Him in the age to come. But they will obey His commandment when He casts them into the lake of fire. He will say, “Go, and they will obey, and go. The obedience in that hour will have a very different outcome. But nonetheless, they will obey. Every created being will obey Jesus forever. When this life is over, every one of us will see. Nobody will escape obeying Jesus.”

VOLUNTARY LOVE

But, the Lord wants something more than mandatory obedience. He wants, number two, volunteer lovers. He wants people to love Him voluntarily. That is what this life is all about. Now we can accomplish many things in this life. But the number one issue, the number one issue in this life is for you to determine if you want to be a voluntary lover of Christ Jesus.

He will not force you to love Him in this life. He will not force you to love Him in the next life. He will force you to obey Him, but not to love Him. They will obey Him in heaven. They will obey Him in hell. But all will obey Him. The Holy Spirit is moving all over the earth, He is calling forth people who will voluntarily choose to be a lover of God.

IT TAKES GOD TO LOVE GOD

Paragraph D. He will supernaturally empower us to love Him. It takes God to love God. Meaning, it takes the power of God for us to love God. I want to love Jesus with all of my heart, but I do not have the power to. He knows that. So the Lord says, “Ask Me for help. Set your heart to love Me. Ask Me. I will pour love out into your heart. I will give you the supernatural ability to feel My love, and I will give you the supernatural ability to return My love back to you” (Rom 5:5). God pours love into your heart by the Holy Spirit if you want it.

Now, this is not just a one-time deal. The love of God is progressively step-by-step released into our experience, if we want it. And He says, “If you want it. I want to give this to you more than you just to wave your hand and say, “Yes, Lord I want it.” I want you to order your life in pursuit of a heart who loves Me. And if you really do that, I will help you love Me.”

Beloved, there is nothing more important in this life than for you to make the decision to be a lover of God, to set your heart, and to ask Him to help you. That will affect the way you evangelize and minister to people. It will change the way you live your life. Whatever assignment He has given you, it will be very different if you set your heart to love Him.” Now the reason we are in this conference, we want to be voluntary lovers of God. We are choosing. We say, “Yes, this is what our life is about.” And in the overflow of that, we love people. In the overflow of that, we minister to people. We affect the seven spheres of society as Loren Cunningham has been speaking about in this conference.

WE MUST LOVE GOD ON HIS TERMS AND NOT ON OUR TERMS

Paragraph E. We must love God on His terms. Meaning a lot of folks, they say, “Hey, I love God.” But the Lord says, “No, you cannot love Me your own way. You have to love Me on My terms.” The false religions across the earth— by the way, every religion is a false religion besides loving Jesus Christ—they will say, “Well, we love Him in our own way.” And God says, “I do not accept it. I am God, I am the Definer of love. You cannot redefine love, and then offer it to Me. You must love Me according to My definition.” And there is a lot of deception, and a lot of foolishness in the nations around the subject of loving God in their own way.

Do not be deceived by that. And there is much of that talk in the Body of Christ. It is false. We must love God, God’s way. He is the definition of love. We do not know how to define love. Only He has the wisdom, and the credibility to define

love. This is one of the core issues in the generation of the Lord's return. I believe we are in the early days of that generation. I believe that there are people in this room who will see the second coming of Jesus with your eyes. You may be seventy to ninety years old, I do not know. But I believe that there are people in this room who will see Jesus with their eyes—many young people in this room. If that is true, and I believe that to be true, we are in the end times. And one of the core issues in the end times is how love is defined.

LOVING GOD MUST BE ROOTED IN A SPIRIT OF OBEDIENCE (JOHN 14:15-23)

The devil is vomiting out of hell a false definition of love. And that false definition of love has inroads all through the Church, and it is in the mouth of many men and women who are in pulpits Sunday after Sunday. It is not the truth because someone says love does not mean it is love. Do not be so open-minded that your brain falls out. Root your understanding in the Word of God, not by somebody who gives you a positive presentation. We must define love on God's terms. The humanistic culture that is in the church in the West is defining love in a very different way. It is not love. They want to define "love" separated from obedience to the Word of God.

This will be a great clash and collision in the end times. There are many definitions today on love, in liberty and freedom. They are not biblical. They are deceptions. They are lies. They will bring you into bondage, and into darkness. No matter what terms they use, they are lies. I am not going to take this session to break it all down in real detail. But, I want to alert you. Someone says "justice, love, and unity" does not mean it is really justice, love and really unity. There is only one definition, Jesus' definition. That is the only true one. Jesus is not a hippie. I like hippies back in the 1960's. How many of you were alive in the sixties? I was. We had hippies all around in the seventies. Jesus is not a laid back, chilled out, "Hey man whatever happens, happens. Love is cool." He is not a hippie, just so you know. He loves hippies, but he is not one. He has a fierce love that is clearly defined, is brilliant, and it is right. I am all about.

I think it is cool to be laid back a little here and there, as long as your life is on fire going somewhere in God. You can kick back here and there. But that is not the point of life to lay back and chill out.

The point of life is to encounter God, and change the world. That is the point of life. Yeah, you can play a little here and there, there is nothing wrong with that.

But some people think that is what love is. No, that is just a little parenthesis here and there that you get to, kind of rest, and get rested up a little bit. Here is how Jesus defined love in John 14.

IF YOU LOVE ME, YOU WILL KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS

Paragraph F. John 14:15: “If you love me, keep My commandments.” “He who has My commandments, it is he who loves Me...If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word” (Jn. 14:21, 23). To keeps them, this is the person who loves God. They obey the Word of God. It is in their hearts to obey Him. That is the only definition of love.

Well, let me say that differently. Every definition of love must have a spirit of obedience as a part of it. That is what I am trying to say. Verse 23: “If anyone loves Me, he will obey My word.” Now we say, “Oh no. There are areas in my life that I am not obeying.” But here is the issue. None of the issues are obeying the Word of God in full maturity. That is not what He is talking about. He is talking about, “have you set your heart to obey?” We set our heart to obey, we come up short, and we fail. We sin. We confess it. He forgives us.

We re-sign up to obey. We push delete on our failure, and we walk forward with confidence. The intention to obey is what I am talking about. If you set your heart to obey, and you stumble tonight, you admit it. Do not make up a new definition and say, “Well, the Bible really says that is okay.” No, do not lie.

Just say, “I sinned. My lust got a hold of me. I sinned. I wish I didn’t, I hate it, but I did it.”

The Lord says, “Okay, I can work with that.”

I declare war on it. I am not going to rationalize it. I am not going to try to find a Bible verse to back up my sin. “I sinned, I love you Jesus. I declare war on it. Forgive me.”

The Lord says, “Okay, now push delete, and forget it. And walk with confidence with Me right now.” The intention to obey, a sincere intention to obey is what I am talking about. I am not talking about the attainment. I am talking about the intention—the setting of your heart.

TO LOVE GOD IS TO SEEK TO OBEY HIS WORD ((JOHN 14:15-23))

I want to say. Paragraph F. There is no such thing as attempting to love Jesus and also setting your heart to obey Him. That is a deception, and a lie that is growing fast even in the church of Jesus—that we can love Him without obeying Him. No. You declare war on immorality. You declare war on pride in your spirit, on covetousness, on drunkenness, and on lies.

You declare war on slander, on complaining, on deceiving. And we admit it, we receive forgiveness, and we set our heart to obey Him. He says, “Now that is the heart that is seeking to love Me.” You can find a Bible verse and twist it to back up any sin you want. That is happening all over in our nation.

People are finding Bible verses to back up sin but God does not buy it. The devil is rejoicing and God is grieved by it. Many Christians are looking for teaching that will enforce a lifestyle of sin. And they want to call it love, and it is a deception. Now I am not trying to be mean. I am trying to be helpful because there is nothing more exhilarating than feeling the love of God and loving Him. There is nothing more exhilarating for me, for any of us, than to feel loved and feel love back. That is the most powerful dynamic way to live life. And I am being.

I want to be a true shepherd, and speak the Truth. The other version of Christianity is false, and it will never ever bring you to the pleasure and exhilaration of walking with Jesus with all of your heart. Let’s turn to page twelve: The first and the great commandment. The first and the great commandment: “You shall love the Lord your God.” It says in Matt 22:37, Jesus went on to say, “This is the first commandment and this is the great commandment.”

THE FIRST AND GREAT COMMANDMENT

Notice, paragraph B. Jesus did not call it the first option. He called it the first commandment. Salvation is not fire insurance so we escape hell. The guy says, “Well, I prayed the prayer, I got baptized. I went forward. I told everyone, ‘I love Jesus. I love Jesus. I am out of hell, he stamped my passport.’ Now I am going to go live in sin for a few years.”

Beloved, you are not saved—you are still an unbeliever. Now, I have heard it in the altar calls. “Come forward, pray this prayer. God will accept you unconditionally.” So the guy comes forward. He prays the prayer. “Jesus come and live in my heart.”

The preacher says, "You are now saved, unconditional love."

The guy responds, "I am saved."

Now if the man was sincere, and he said, "Come and live in my heart, and I am giving you my life. I commend myself to obey you." The preacher is right. But if the man came up, prayed the prayer, even cried a few tears. But he did not repent, and did not give his heart to the Lord. He says, "Jesus come into my heart."

And Jesus says, "No."

"What do you mean no? The preacher said, you would come into my heart."

He says, "I will come into your heart, but on my terms not on your terms. So for now, the answer is 'no.' I am not coming to your heart. You are not saved right now. But my heart is wide open, but you must come on my terms."

TRUE ETERNAL SALVATION

Preachers all across the land are lying to the people of God. They are not saved. They think they are saved. And because they have no power in their heart, they think Christianity is boring, but they have never even tried Christianity because they were never saved in the first place.

They were in dead religion, thinking they were saved, and the preacher deceived them. A couple years go by and the guy says, "it never worked."

I respond, "That is because you never did it."

"Yeah I did, I got saved three years ago."

"No you were not saved. You asked the Lord, he said 'no.'" "What do you mean he said no?"

You have not been saved yet. You have not tried it yet. Let me tell you the real way to a real love relationship with a real man. Well, the preacher said it was unconditional, that is a lie. It is not unconditional. There are conditions. We must repent, and come on His terms. It is not unconditional. We must come to Him on His terms, not on our terms.

Now, it is unconditional in this regard. He wants everyone. He wants everyone. But Beloved, read your Bible. He has very clear conditions. There is no such thing as unconditional love. I hear preachers say it all the time. I say, “what Bible are they reading?” That is a popular term.

Now if they mean, Jesus loves everybody no matter how messed up they are. That is a right word. That is a true concept. But if it means everyone who is saved without repenting because they prayed a prayer, that is a lie.

The reason I am saying this so clear is because there are some of you in this room where Christianity is boring, the Bible is boring, the Spirit is boring, worship is boring. Now, if the instruments do a good job, you like the worship, but you do not really connect with God. Maybe you are not even saved, and your youth pastor lied to you. Maybe you need to say, “Jesus I want to love You with all my heart. I will bring my sexuality to you. I will bring my money to You. I will bring my mind to You. I will bring everything. It is Yours. I do not know what to do, but I set my heart to love You.”

Beloved, now that is a prayer for salvation. You live like that; you will begin to feel the power of God. Maybe not in the full sense of feeling the power of God that you want one day, but you will begin to feel the presence of God. You respond, “wow! This is different.” Well, I am sorry your youth pastor lied to you three years ago, or whenever it was. We are not trying to beef up numbers at the altar call. We are trying to preach the truth so people can encounter the glory of this Man who is fully God, and fully man.

IT IS THE FIRST COMMANDMENT, NOT FIRST OPTION

Paragraph B. Jesus did not call it the first option. It is the first commandment. He requires it. He is so tender when we blow it, but we admit we blew it. He is so tender when we step over those lines. But we confess it, and we declare war on our sin. And I tell you, He will forgive us every single time if we do that.

Paragraph C. Cultivating love for God. It is not only the first commandment. It is not only the first emphasis of the Holy Spirit. It is also the great commandment. This is the commandment that has the greatest impact on God’s heart. Did you know you could impact the heart of God? This is the greatest thing about my life and your life. Is that I can respond. I can say things, and do things that move God. Oh my goodness. I can. In the secrecy of my heart, in my isolation, my brokenness and weakness, I can make the decisions that move God. And He loves me. I love

Him, He loves me. I have it made. I love Him, He loves me. Well, my ministry is not very big. Well, I want my ministry to get better.

But you know what? He loves me, I love Him, I have already got it made. Well, I do not have that much money. I want more money, but between now and then, I have it made. He loves me, I love Him. I move Him, He moves me. Yes, yes, yes—forever. Yes, I got it made. I got it made. That is truth. Well, ministry is not that big. I do not have much this; I do not have much that. Well, I am all for you getting all those things a little bit better if it works. But between now and then, guess what? You have it made anyway.

I AM A LOVER OF GOD AND LOVED BY GOD, THEREFORE I AM SUCCESSFUL

I am already successful. I am not successful because my ministry is growing. I am successful because the Gen 1 God who made the heavens and the earth. When I look up, he likes me and I move his heart. Wow.

Now I can go with that. If there is no crowd, if everything goes away, I move Him, and He moves me. I am in forever. I love it. I love it. I love it.

Paragraph C. Cultivating love for God. It is the great commandment because it has the greatest impact on God's heart. It has the greatest impact on your heart. You know, if you set your heart to love Jesus, you will have far greater love for other people. I have had people say, "Well if we get really into the first commandment, we really go hard after Jesus, and love him, what about others?"

I respond, "What do you mean?"

"Well if I do the first commandment so hard, maybe I will come up short in the second commandment." The second commandment is to love others as you love yourself.

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT FUELS THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

I respond, "That is impossible. You mean you are going to fall in love, and connect with the greatest lover of the human race, and you are not going to become a lover of people? That is impossible. That is a hypothetical argument." If you love Jesus, you will love your neighbor far better. If you love Jesus, you will love yourself far better in a biblical way. You know the lady prayed, "Lord, I want to love my

neighbor as I love myself.” And the Lord answer here, “That is the problem. The reason you hate your neighbor is because you hate yourself. That is the problem. You love your neighbor like you love yourself. You hate yourself—that is why you hate your neighbor. You set your heart to love me. You receive my testimony of love back to you. You will love yourself, and you will overflow in love to your neighbor in a far greater way.” You will be far more effective in evangelism, in missions, works of justice, acts of compassion. You will be far more effective if you love Jesus with all of your heart. I mean if you have set your heart in that direction. You will be far more effective in love. So do not let somebody give you some ridiculous argument. I have heard it over the years. It is so ridiculous. I want to be respectful, but this is so ridiculous it is hard to be respectful. They say, “if you go too hard after the first commandment, you will not do the second.”

I say, “Wait. When you do the first commandment, you are running into the most fierce Lover of human beings who has ever walked the earth.” Are you kidding me? You will be a passionate lover of your neighbor if you run into this man Jesus. They are afraid if they pray too much, somehow they will not care about people. They are running into the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the great Lover of the human race, the great soul Winner—this is who they are running into in the prayer room.

I have never met a person develop a prayer life who did not become more tender, and more fiery in their commitment to serve other people. I have never met that person. It is a hypothetical argument. Loving God with all of your heart is the greatest, not just the greatest impact, I am still on paragraph C, it is the greatest calling.

OUR GREATEST CALLING IS THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

See people say, “I want the greatest calling.”

I say, “Good.” All of you in this room, or the majority, you want the greatest calling.

You say, “I want the greatest calling.” Great! I know what it is. It is the first calling, and it is the great calling. It is the first commandment, and it is the great commandment. It is to love God.

That is the first and greatest calling you will ever receive from the Spirit. I talk to young people all the time at IHOP through the years. And they want to know

God's will. That is good. I get that. But when they want to know God's will, I say, "What do you mean?"

And I am tricking them a little bit. But I say it publicly enough that if they are listening, they know I am tricking them. I say, "What do you mean you want to do God's will? What is it?" They almost always talk about what they want to do—not what they want to become.

"Well, the will of God. You know I want to marry this person. That is cool." I appreciate that part of the will of God. They say, "I want this amount of money." Okay, I appreciate that part of the will of God. "I want a big ministry. I mean one that people go, 'Wow,' and it delivers the masses, and everybody gets set free. And I am the one leading the way."

Now, no one says that, but that is what they are thinking. I say, "Good, I like all that. Marry somebody who really touches your heart, has plenty of money, or a powerful ministry. Good, is that it?"

"Well, maybe have a big house. Maybe a lot of kids. Maybe not so many kids."

"Anything else?" And almost never do they talk about what they want to become as the will of God. Only what they want to do.

And I say, "You know what? There is something in the will of God that is bigger than who you marry, and what you do." There is a will of God. There is a calling bigger than that. It is what you are going to become. You are going to become a voluntary lover of God that is mature in love. And you will carry that with you throughout eternity.

DID YOU LEARN TO LOVE?

You know, the only thing you are going to bring with you from this life is love. You are not going to bring your house. You are not going to bring your database. You are not going to bring your cd's, and your books. You are not going to bring your money. You are going to bring love. That is the only currency in the age to come that you bring from this age.

When I stand before God one day, He is not going to say, "Mike Bickle how big was your youth conferences?" He is going to say, "How big was your heart? Tell

me about the way you loved Me, and the way you loved people.” Because you will never love people more than you love Him. If you minimize growing in love for Jesus because you want to love people better.

You will be far more ineffective in loving people, if you do not grow in love for Jesus. You want to be a love for people, abandon yourself to be a lover of God. You will be far more effective. So I talk to young people. And when they talk about the greatest calling, often they talk about the size of their ministry. The stadiums.

I say, “that is not the greatest calling. If God calls you to stadiums to fill them with your great ministry, cool. Some of you undoubtedly will. That is neat. But, that is not the most important thing about you. The greatest ministry you can have is to walk out the first commandment.”

It is the great commandment. It is the greatest reward. It is the greatest impact. It is the greatest calling. It is the greatest ministry. I have that on good authority from the lips of Jesus, it is the great commandment. It brings the greatest freedom.

SPHERE NUMBER ONE: TO LOVE GOD WITH ALL OF OUR HEART

Roman numeral III. Middle of page twelve. I am just going to take a few more minutes on this because I have got you thinking in the right way. I am going to give a little advertisement. I have a series called “The First Commandment.” This is a little notebook, a little teaching syllabus. I gave twelve teachings on this that I am giving you here. It is all on the Internet, you can get it for free. You can get the video, you can get the audio, or you can get the notes. Or you can get this little teaching course in the bookstore if you want. But you can get it free online. My point is this: I took the IHOP community through twelve one-hour teachings on the first commandment.

I broke down point by point on how to walk out the first commandment. What does it mean to love God with all of your heart? This has to do with the emotions. What does it mean to love God with all of our mind? Our strength? What does it mean to love God with all of our soul? I take those four issues. Each of the ones that Jesus identified, I give an hour to each one of them from the Bible, and I break it down. You want to know this stuff, because this is what Jesus is going to ask you

when you meet Him eye-to-eye on that day. He is going to talk about the first commandment far before He talks about how big your ministry was.

He said, “I said it clearly. This is the first issue, this is the great issue, and this is the issue I care most about right here. And now let’s talk about it.” And I want you ready. Not that if you hear my twelve little teachings, you are going to be ready. That is not what I am saying, but I am saying, these twelve little teachings will help you at least grapple with some of the issues.

In that series, I break down how to do it, why we do it, and how to overcome the obstacles. What are the common enemies? What are the reasons why people do this and why do not they not do this? I break it down. If I could leave you with anything in this conference, it would be with a zeal, and a determination to set your heart to be a lover of God first and foremost.

If you do that, you will do works of justice. You will do acts of compassion. You will do the will of God. The other things will fall in line if you set your heart to do this. All of us are weak and broken people. None of us with attain this in the full way. Attaining is not even the issue. It is pursuing. It is pursuing. I have not attained this. There are areas in my life that I am falling short. But I tell you one thing, when I come up short I admit it. I do not try to rationalize it with a Bible verse. I say, “I sinned.” That is it.

And the Lord responds, “Okay, this works.”

I then say, “Forgive me.”

He says, “I will.”

We say back to God, “I declare war on this sin. I love you.”

And the Lord says, “I take it. I love you.” Then, I push delete, and I start with confidence this very minute. I am not talking about being super saints right now. I am talking about us. Folk, good old folk like you and me—weak and broken people. This is within the reach of every single person in this room, and everyone that is viewing this by television and the Internet.

So I am not going to finish these notes. But, I have pointed you to them. And that is really what a teaching is about like in a conference. I am pointing you to this.

What is the Spirit saying to the Church? God is saying, “I am restoring the First Commandment to first place in My Church. I do not want the first commandment to be in the top ten. I want it to be number one.”

Youth pastors, study this out. And again, I recommend these twelve teachings if this is a new subject to you. We break down the issues. The Holy Spirit will give you a lot more than I give you in these twelve.

But begin the journey: Teach this to your junior high students. Teach this to your high school. Teach this in the university campus. This is what the Spirit will bear witness to. The Spirit will move on this in power. This is what the Spirit is speaking to the church. I remember talking to a famous professor at a big Bible school. I mean one of the famous seminaries in America. I mean one of the really famous ones. And he was a professor there for ten to twenty years— over ten, and less than twenty. And he heard me teach a message on this once. My point is not that he heard me. I mean, who cares that he heard that? But he came to me after the meeting, and he said, “In all my years of being a professor at this big famous seminary, I have never heard on sermon ever on the first commandment. Ever.”

This is the first thing God cares about. And he was grieved. He said, “How could I have gone through eight years of school, four years undergrad, four years post grad, how could I have heard so many great Bible teachers, and never once have I ever heard in my thirty years of walking with God a sermon the first commandment? What is wrong?”

I said, “Hang in there.” God is raising up an army of young adults. This will be the first message out of their lips. This will be the first song they sing. This is the first prayer on their heart, is the first commandment. Let’s stand. Misty Edwards. I did not get through any of the notes, but who cares? That is why they are in there, so you can have them and work through.