

## Series: Building for Tomorrow Aligning Ourselves with God's Plan

Mark 12:28-31 (NIV)

*One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"<sup>29</sup> "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.'<sup>30</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'<sup>31</sup> The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."*

### 1. ALIGNMENT STARTS WITH WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT GOD.

v. 29 *"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.'"*

- What we believe about God shapes our outlook on life.
- Giving God absolute control of every aspect of our lives is the only true understanding of lordship.
- Once we align ourselves with God, it's easier to line up with others.

### 2. LOVING GOD WITH ALL WE'VE GOT IS THE HEART OF DISCIPLESHIP.

v. 30 *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."*

- Loving God with all we've got has its rewards.

Psalm 31:23 (CEV)

*All who belong to the Lord, show how you love him. The Lord protects the faithful, but he severely punishes everyone who is proud.*

- Fully loving God gives us a sense of direction in life.

2 Thessalonians 3:5 (NKJV)

*Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.*

- Giving God all our love, compounds our love to be distributed to others that we love with an unending supply.

### 3. LOVING OTHERS IS THE PROOF OF DISCIPLESHIP. (V. 31)

v. 31 *"The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."*

- Loving others is the benchmark of being an authentic follower of Jesus.
- Because God loves the world so much, if we are his disciples we share in His great love.

John 3:16 (NKJV)

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

- Truly loving God forces us to think beyond ourselves and our needs.

**When we align ourselves with God, our orientation changes from ourselves to others because we are filled with his great love.**