

# **"LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF"**

1. Imagine you're in the midst of a lively debate about the most important principle or commandment in life. What would you personally consider as the 'foremost commandment' and why?  

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2. What question did a scribe pose to Jesus, and how did Jesus respond? According to Jesus, what is the first great commandment, and what is the second great commandment?  

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3. In what ways has modern culture shifted away from being neighborly? How was the Jerusalem Church community-centered, and what impact did it have on the larger community?  

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4. What shift occurred within Christianity after a few centuries, as Christianity became increasingly Gentile?  

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5. According to Judaism, why is religion inherently communal, and what does "life is with people" mean?  

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6. Provide examples of how Jesus' teaching on love goes beyond the minimum requirements of the law.  

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7. How did Jesus approach the interpretation of the Torah differently from other rabbis of his time? Why is Jesus considered the authoritative interpreter of the Torah?  

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8. What is the significance of Jesus focusing on the maximum aims of the law rather than the minimums? Contrast the teachings of Hillel and Jesus regarding the interpretation of the Torah.  

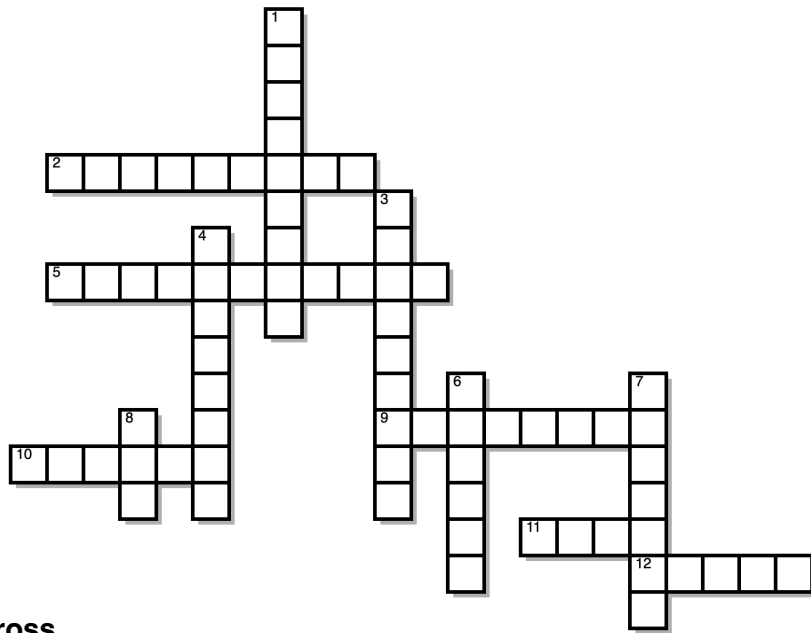
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9. How does the command to love your enemies relate to the Old Testament teachings, specifically Leviticus 19:18?  

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10. Why did the scholar in Luke 10 have difficulty with the command to love his neighbor as himself? Explain the importance of actively loving even those who may be considered enemies, as illustrated in the Good Samaritan parable.  

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11. Share a real-life example of someone you have witnessed demonstrating love for an enemy.  

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12. How is the Holy Spirit prodding you to better apply this passage to your life?  

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**Across**

2 In 1 John 3:11 John says "For this is the message which you have heard from the \_\_\_\_\_, that we should love one another".

5 Mitzvah means \_\_\_\_\_.

9 Leviticus 19:18 instructs us not to take vengeance and to love our \_\_\_\_\_ as ourselves.

10 Jesus, in linking these two "you shall loved" passages, is using the rabbinic rule called gezerah sheva, {which means} "a comparison of \_\_\_\_\_."

11 The fellowship meals of the early church were called \_\_\_\_\_ feasts.

12 In James 2:8 James (the half-brother of Jesus) calls this command to love your neighbor as yourself the "\_\_\_\_\_ law".

**Down**

1 In 1 Peter 4:8 Peter says "Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a \_\_\_\_\_ of sins."

3 "You shall not take \_\_\_\_\_, and you shall not keep your anger against the sons of your people" (Leviticus 19:18)

4 The Essenes interpreted "love your neighbor" as loving the sons of light and hating the sons of \_\_\_\_\_.

6 Which famous Jewish scholar does Jesus stand in marked contrast to, taking the Law of God to the maximum?

7 According to Acts 2:42-47, the early Christians were devoted to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and the \_\_\_\_\_.

8 In Galatians 5:14 Paul says "For the whole \_\_\_\_\_ is fulfilled in one word, in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself.""

**WORD SEARCH:**

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| Jesus     | Shammai   |
| Mitzvah   | Minimums  |
| Rabbi     | Maximums  |
| Neighbors | Vengeance |
| Community | Love      |
| Jerusalem | Enemies   |
| Judaism   | Essenes   |
| Leviticus | Samaritan |
| Hillel    | Feasts    |

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