

The Law Pushes Us to Christ

by Erlo Stegen

The greatest commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind, and we must also love our neighbor as ourselves.

Duration: 1:18:19

Scripture: Leviticus 19:18, Deuteronomy 6:5, Matthew 22:41

Topics: "Law Of God"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of repentance in order to receive forgiveness and the Holy Spirit. He warns about the dangers of the internet, particularly the abundance of immoral content that can corrupt children. The preacher also discusses the significance of the Ten Commandments, highlighting the first four commandments relating to our relationship with God and the last six commandments relating to our interactions with others. Jesus' response to a question about the greatest commandment is referenced, emphasizing the importance of loving God with all our heart, soul, and mind, as well as loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Transcript

We ask you, Lord, to be with us in this day. Work your miracles. We ask you, Lord, that as your word is proclaimed, it would find entrance and not just go in one ear and out the other.

So we ask you, Lord, to speak to us through your word and by your Holy Spirit. Amen. Amen.

A text we find in Matthew 22. And from verse 34. So Matthew 22, verse 34.

But when the Pharisees heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they gathered themselves together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, testing him. Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law? And the Lord said to them, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

On these two commandments depend the whole law and the prophets. Now, while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question saying, what do you think about Christ? Whose son is he? They said to him, the son of David. He said to them, then how does David in the spirit call him Lord,

saying, the Lord said to my Lord, sit at my right hand until I put thine enemies beneath thy feet.

If David then calls him Lord, how is he his son? And no one was able to answer him a word, nor did anyone dare from that day on to ask him another question. The portion I've read contains such a lot. I'll never be able to explain all of it and expound on all of it.

I'll just take part, especially the first part. Jesus was a man acquainted with suffering, great suffering as he went in this world. It is said of Moses that the people troubled him greatly.

But that of Moses was very minor in comparison to the way they were towards our Lord Jesus. Jesus didn't come to live in comfort in this world, but he suffered. They made him to suffer.

And he used the day to preach the gospel. And if he wasn't busy teaching the gospel, then he was healing the sick. Delivering people of demonic powers.

He was always surrounded by troubled people. Those who rarely wanted him and sought after him and also his enemies. Some came purposely with the intent to test and try and corner him.

But then there were those who came because they were hungry. They were starving for words that would make them whole. Even when he was surrounded by people and he was totally exhausted.

And he wanted to go alone and be with his disciples or go and take a rest. He just was surrounded by people all the time with no rest. Sometimes he would pray the whole night.

Speaking to God, his Father. In the Psalms it says, during the day I call upon you and at night I am not quiet. That was a word of special meaning to me when I was in Russia.

I was so busy to such a point that my heart began to beat strangely and the doctor feared that it might be my end. To the point that I thought, did our Lord, did he get to such a point of exhaustion, such tiredness? While he would be preaching he would be called away to go and heal some sick or then he would be called away and even miss meals. That was what I was experiencing and I was so exhausted.

I said to the co-workers with me and to Fanny from France, you go and take the service, I am just too exhausted. The people there complained and said no, we wanted to hear Erlis Degen, not this one. Some people are not very considerate, they don't realize that we are still in the flesh, we are still in the body and that there is such a thing as getting tired but no, they will persist day and night.

And as I prayed I said, Lord so this is what you experienced and yet in such a state you were able to carry it. Also he was wrestling with the devil and all the servants and workers of Satan, people without God. And because of the people's unbelief he was in a great battle.

Now I am skipping that and I will continue. He also had to be in battle against the Sadducees. The Sadducees had a particular belief that there is no resurrection of the dead and they would try and trap him and argue with him.

They also claimed that there were no angels and they fought against him, resisted him and would speak about the dead. It was a great battle but by the grace of God he conquered always. When he would win the battle with the Sadducees then along would come the Pharisees.

And they would have special little meetings to arrange, to organize how they would trap Jesus and how they would be able to get reason to have him arrested. And then the one thought well let's say I'm going to ask him a question. As a lawyer, one who was familiar with the law.

So this expert in the law asked Jesus which commandment is the greatest commandment? When you hear the question it seems innocuous with no threat. But this particular person was a child of Satan. His coming to Jesus had nothing of a desire for help and for deliverance and for being made whole.

Instead he was there to trap Jesus, to test him, to corner him. So I repeat. And so he came with this intention, his whole motivation was to trap Jesus.

He didn't have any desire to be taught, he was unteachable. He wanted to use a question which would corner Jesus to such an extent that he could use it in front of all the people and say this is what Jesus has answered. And he came with a difficult question.

For he came with the Bible. And so you do find often that people will come with the Bible, with the pet verse and that and come and try you out to test you, to tempt you. And till today there are that type of people, there is that type that would seek to trap a Christian with the Bible.

We also get that type coming here to Kwasisabantu. I remember one who came and asked a question of a co-worker. Having got an answer, he then went to another co-worker with exactly the same question which had been answered.

And then he went to another co-worker to ask exactly the same question again. He didn't come asking a question for help, to receive help, but no, he was like this, with the spirit of this Pharisee. But I'm thankful that even though a person comes and it seems to all appearances they come with a very deep, very deep doctrinal question which seems right.

But Jesus, being perfectly holy and knowing the Scripture. Jesus smelt a rat, a dead rat at that. And he immediately sensed that this person is asking me this to trap me, to corner me.

So you too. And as Jesus then answered with the Scripture, so too you, you need to know the Bible. You should be reading the Bible every single day.

Be so familiar with it that anybody who comes with a question or tries to corner you, you are able to answer scripturally. For the Word of God is like a sharpened sword, a two-edged sword with which you can strike the devil, hitting out with the word. So when Jesus replied, he came with an answer from the Bible.

I remember the New Testament wasn't in existence yet. It was the Old Testament. Saying, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

And the second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. A marvelous thing.

Yes, we might say, alright, the first commandment, yes, I'll go along with it, to love the Lord your God with all your heart, your soul and your mind. But the second commandment, I have a problem with it. For Jesus said, you shall love your neighbor exactly as you love yourself.

And he said, He was holding up two boards, you could say. On the one board, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, your soul and your mind. And on the other, which the Lord Jesus pointed out, is

exactly the same as the first, you shall love your neighbor in the same way that you love yourself.

You do get those. You do get the sanctimonious who will say, well, it's not really that I have trouble with believing that I should love the Lord God. But regarding loving my neighbor as myself, no.

But the Lord said, it carries the same weight as the first. I believe in God, I'm satisfied with that. I don't matter what the people say.

Or what people do. I go my way. You know, there are many human beings who are devils.

And this is one of the devils. Now in the question, it's asked, which is the greatest and most important law? God gave us 10 commandments. They are not bad.

They are wonderful, holy and good. Absolutely pure. The first commandment of the 10 is directed at God.

Six are related to people. And it is essential that you love the other person, your neighbor, as you love yourself. If you read in Exodus 20, you read the 10 commandments.

And you'll see that it's written there so clearly in the laws and in the commandments and in the first four regarding God. And it starts by saying, you shall worship the Lord your God only. You shall have no other God beside me or any image of another God.

And that is also a direct attack against worshipping the dead, the spirits of the dead. Because ancestral worship is a great curse. Some will hold the superstitious belief or the religious belief that this snake that maybe comes into their room is actually their grandfather.

Or it's their deceased relative. And they don't know that actually they make themselves to be sons of serpents. Well, they make themselves to be part of the great serpent.

Now, God said, the Lord Jesus said that in the commandment says, you shall love the Lord your God only. No other God beside me. Do not bow down before any other.

Now, you might think that your ancestral worship is advanced, but really you don't know how intricately it's done. If you go to the Hindus, the Indian Hindus, how they are very deep into ancestral worship. And even in Madagascar, you'll find that the people there are even deeper than you are in, as Zulu people, in ancestral worship.

For instance, a child might dream that the deceased relative is hungry or thirsty and they need a feast. And so it will be said, well, you've got to slaughter a cow. If you can't afford that, then a goat.

And if you can't afford that, then a chicken. It's non-local either. It's non-local either.

And here in Africa, ancestral worship would have the part of that feast where they'd say, we're taking part of it. But the word for it is actually meaning the minor part that they're being stingy and they put it at the back of the hut so that the grandparent or the deceased person would come and eat it. And actually all that happens is that the flies and the maggots come and eat it.

But the word says, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. For the deceased, they put the stingy part, the irrelevant part of the feast. And the word.

If that deceased relative is in hell with that rich man who is in hell, do you think that he would get permission to come to the feast that you've made for your ancestral worship to give that food to that person where he says, Father Abraham, allow me, Lord, let me go and cool my lips with those things and that little bit of food? And so you'll find that in Exodus as you read there about the Ten Commandments that the first four have to do directly with God and the last six with people. Acknowledge or honor your mother and father. Do not murder.

Do not commit adultery. Do not steal. Do not bear false witness about your neighbor.

And don't desire and abuse the property of your neighbor. You see, four regarding commands about your relationship with God, but six regarding your neighbor. And so Jesus said the first commandment, the greatest of all is that you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, your soul, and your mind.

And the second, which is as weighty as the first, which is like the first, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. Joseph, the one who worked for Potiphar in Egypt, Potiphar's wife was constantly at Joseph, at this young man, luring him, trying to flirt with him, trying to get him sexually involved with her. And one day... One day when Potiphar had gone for a business trip for a longer time, she used that as a chance to get hold of Joseph and to commit sin with him.

She grabbed him when he refused because he said, how can I sin against God and my master? And so he got out of his jacket which she had grabbed. Do you see how he loved God and his neighbor? You see how he said, how can I sin against God? Because this would be wickedness against God And coming down to your level of a promiscuous person, a prostitute of a woman, shall I desert God for you? And Joseph, the one who worked for Potiphar, even though his wife was a prostitute, he could not sin against her. He loved her so much, that one day he went to her and said to her, you, Potiphar's wife, you are a prostitute, go to Joseph.

You prostitute, where do you sleep? I will come to you, Satan, I will come to you. And Joseph ran and he ran. He never came back to claim his coat.

He left and he never came back to her. In the meantime, when Potiphar returned, And she instantly showed the jacket and said, just look at what your servant has done to me. He came and he wanted to rape me.

You see how it is, the woman, if you're godly, it's wonderful. But how devilish you can be if you're not with the Lord. So the greatest is that we love God.

And so when Jesus asked Peter, Peter, do you love me? Peter answered, Lord, you know all things, you know that I love you. And Jesus said, well, look after my sheep, feed my sheep, preach the gospel. That is the way, loving God, you will love his sheep.

And Jesus said, the greatest of all commandments, the very first is that you shall love God in that manner. And this is a constantly recurring theme right throughout the Bible that we have to love God. In the New Testament, it says, if you love God, you will keep his commandments.

Now, that being the first point, loving God, firstly, and above all things, secondly, and this is what confuses people, that the Lord says, and you shall love your neighbor in like manner that you love yourself. Jesus told the story of the man who had been in Jerusalem and then traveled back to his town and on the way he was attacked by thieves and people on the way who attacked him, robbed him, beat him up. And he was

left half dead.

And when the priest came, the priest gave him a side look and pretended that he hadn't seen him and just continued his way. So the first being one who's also a preacher, like looking after the people, God's people. The second one, a Levite, who is a person who loves God.

But both priest and Levite ignored the man. They said, these are bad times, it's dangerous, you don't know what will happen. And so they just simply went their way.

It doesn't help to just condemn murderers and those who spill the blood of others. And by their deed of ignoring this man, they were actually categorizing themselves with the murderers, with the robbers. Their sin was exactly the same as theirs.

And so to you, if you ignore sin, you are the neighbor of somebody else and you keep completely quiet about something terrible that's happened, you are with them in their sin. A long time ago, there was a man who was a priest. Along came a Samaritan man, one of mixed race, one despised and looked down upon.

As he saw this Jewish man lying there half dead, his heart broke in compassion. And he took him, he tended to him, he tried his best to help him, put him on his own donkey, took him to a hospital, paid the account and said, if there's anything more, I will see to it. He had love to his neighbor, caring for his neighbor of another race, of another nation.

And to contextualize it, it is the same with us as well. If a black person sees a white person bleeding and injured, he will show mercy and love and compassion for him. The same with whites.

If they see a black person who is suffering and is injured, that they have that same heart. The same with colored people. The same with Indian people.

And so the Bible says, if you claim to love God but you do not love your brother, you are a liar. Because the commandment to love your brother is exactly in the same category as loving God. Let white people think very seriously and deeply consider this, the serious nature of the implications of this.

And the same regarding black people and regarding other nations too. And so this man, this good Samaritan, was of a different type. He wasn't of the same nation as the one who was injured and needed help.

But he showed love towards his neighbor. How urgent, what great importance it is to love your neighbor. And then the commands in Exodus 20 says, do not desire the wife of your neighbor.

Jesus said, if you look at a woman lustfully, you have already committed adultery with her. Do you see how holy the law is? And do you see how pure the law is? That is why the law condemns all of humanity, for no human being is without sin. We have all sinned.

And in the sight of God, whether it seems a big sin or a small sin, it is all the same. You can keep all the law perfectly and break just one of the commandments, you've broken all. But if you break one of the commandments, you've broken all the law.

In the sight of God, if you break one of the commandments, you've broken all the law. If two legs break or one link, it makes no difference, I will fall. And so the law condemns us all, for we have all broken the commandments.

And we are incapable of keeping His commandments, for we do not have the love of God. Look, for instance, I said at the beginning, we don't flirt around and have affairs when the engaged couple came forward. We want it to be completely holy.

And that is why, before marriage, don't even have the slightest touch of your future spouse. Yesterday we had a marriage here, a wedding. And the wife told the husband that he's not going to marry, he's not going to get married.

He's not going to get married without having sex. That's not good. God, that's not good.

Don't have the slightest touch of your future spouse. And don't have sex. You there is something that will happen in your body.

Otherwise, you're a eunuch or an ox and there's something wrong with you Go shoot booty funny new booty newbie So you have fun to put a pen to get a vroom is on Ozark Unkulukula to to Lulu more. We'll turn the lock and go more. Oh, yeah It says you have to be holy and because you are not holy that is why there is the call to repentance God demands that you repent so that he can forgive and cleanse and pause out his Holy Spirit to Make it capable of keeping his law.

Nothing about a love. I'm so paid. I Preached and says preach to the white people.

Oh good thing. I'm a zane. Oh, you know my internet And I said your children have got the internet And on the internet you can find all manner of filth There is a wealth of filth more than the good things No, no, don't you? wait for busy no mean insult no, ma Way job rather the tongue of a line.

Oh, you born are you who internet? Rather the tongue of a line or an elephant or a dog than the tongue the dirt that you see on the internet Connett inning harness as got DSS father good internet Some oh good Children who had been at this has had asked the question on the internet They were not all I need to be a Corrigan a faith and Where there were pictures of girls dressed like prostitutes? There's a mob a little massive. It's very light and Exposing themselves girls exposing themselves like a cow. No, but it's baby.

It's Morgan. She was born look, oh, God, why my ha cool a Promiscuous person is very visible. They draw attention to themselves Even if they're walking Okay, who's been done? I'm gonna go number 30, but you don't know how to do good.

God. We are father I've has an offering the buck Offering the bucket Abandoned a bag of satan And so the one child writes to you to the other and makes their comment and then the others Make their comments and they are children, even if the parents think that they are Christians. They are children of Satan But I buy a bus.

So I don't say benzo. It goes and other solar booms or Criticizing the work of the Lord and purity Get gel man, we'll take a jailer. Oh good.

Oh friend a buckle bar. Pee. Come on.

It's okay to put There's the proverb which says you tell me your friends and I'll tell you who you are Come on, do as you are. Oh friend the back person Internet Oh Would think I'm in a band of us to boogie ghost. I've I've seen jail.

I have a msula as a hamper you Go shoot it. Now. Wait, who taught you? Can you get onto the internet and then you look for those who have Deserted the way of the Lord and you and make yourself familiar with them and be pally-pally with them Well, it shows that you too.

You're a child of the devil I Don't know you young people what type of life you live When Jesus met that woman of Samaria at Jacob's well Now no, no, no, no, I reckon didn't know Who know? I'm gonna see you gone and when Jesus got into a conversation with her, he said go and call your husband and She said I have none He said you've answered correctly for you've had five and the one that you're with is not yours either the Adobe Shark Rigged booze. I'm a new booze I'm booze. Oh, personally.

Let me ask you. I've been a matter. I'm a knock Personal question of you young people you girls.

How many men how many of the opposite sex have you had? Guna Um, I'm gonna know my pussy Garci I've found a number potty fire. We don't go to suffice a It would be a pity if you find the ilk of Potiphar's wife who has a husband, but she seeks for others Abilities a goal is it a weenie assembles? early eclipsed go to Who's wounded? He's a new daughter like I? All moon, yeah, I'm having gone in a young as a Lassie is cool. That's Apple.

So pussy guys No mass of fellow guys No mass some don't I've seen don't be don't out really You'll find that some Their spouse goes off to work and in a city to earn money and in the meantime you bring in other people and You're immoral with them sometimes so young that they're younger than your own children and you live in such immorality Eco City, I think funny. No, I think funny local Sifu new walls Allah a Altari sims who do I sing in a ball of And that is why when we have engagements here and weddings We say we don't want it to be something impure and promiscuous we want it to be before God's people that it is something holy and and sanctified But if you're 50 rad No, I think it he go moony a 50 radical pay what he pay low mola Lama, Toto is done several 250 most of a lot. Nope.

So robot Kukona Abba lalemini the courtship subahambe Benza a busu Abba nandaba. No mama. Baba.

Um, Louie. Kala T Oh No, ma Yes, well No, my hotel phony. I buy you a lot.

But when the hotel phone could do my half hour in hotel phone No, my to Milan SMS Michelin and Kuluma Nako Yeah, was it in a bash? Yeah Getting born and yes and so you'll find some going to the point of selling their bodies and Prostituting themselves one girl. I spoke to said she had been doing it for just 50 range she said well if it's five men, that's 250 in in one night and You find that all men are promiscuity and that is why it says here in the law that you are unholy You have broken God's law. That is why run to Jesus for forgiveness whoever you are you See what God's standard is because sometimes this promiscuity isn't done in physical contact Sometimes it's done just remotely by phone Symbolically sex talk sex chat lines or whatever.

It might be repent of that la I go to Sugeen daughter. Yeah. No bola.

It'll be a keeping income Not very far Not very far from here There was once a wedding where the man had in the traditional custom paid the full dowry of 11 cattle for the girl Was or shot they got married? Whoa, no, sir. Sexy. No available syndrome.

Cool The following morning there was a great uproar Gwennan what hum I was a fool Pindell again if you're not talking almost I'm yes 11 No, but Nick Ficke on a scene. Don't be dumb. Oh, so I'm fast And what is on for this was on for this? Was a Tool Not keeping Gomez living I can live a good way What I am

so on again I'm in fool One divorce or sugar than I what? Yeah, not cause she's sick and He was so angry.

He said it is just non-negotiable. She can go back to her family She's not a virgin. I paid the full dowry not 10 cattle, but she demanded 11 cows and she's not pure She's not a virgin and nothing would help even when they brought in a preacher.

He said no, this is just how it is It's non-negotiable. She can go back home Okay, so I'm going on the way to a sizzling Tina Turner band like I chased using my coat walk Yeah, now I keep in Gomez 11. It's probably What it is finished ideally coke Go to my session.

I don't know if we got One I do a lick on a pill a Yeah, yeah, I was a couple and this will do your couple and the husband Then this whole queen sent her away and said I want all my 11 cattle back. He divorced her sent her away now Think of it in this way Jesus Christ paid the full dowry the full redemption price to buy you he shed his Precious blood for you to buy you So if you are found not to be pure not a virgin when the price has been paid You'll be spat out of heaven Who's got a back? Oh, yeah. Oh my bear.

I'm fine a little babu's good you Listen, I'm gonna go Oh Some have got a whole lot of illegitimate children before they're married. Some, they don't have any children, but they've had a number of abortions. I guarantee you, you will never ever enter into heaven in that condition.

Unless you repent, unless you bow before God, confessing your sin that He cleanses you, otherwise you will never ever enter into heaven. The law, you can keep it all and break just one and you've broken the lot. The Bible says, cursed is the one who does not keep all the law.

And that doesn't mean just keeping half the law or 99%, no, but keeping the law perfectly. And so the law pushes you to Christ for mercy. The law directs you to Jesus that you come to Him and say, Oh, woe to me, a sinner, have mercy on me.

That you bring your sins to Him that He cleanses you as a poor sinner. The law works, for it makes it evident and clear to you that you are a sinner. When you are a sinner, you sense the curse that you are under.

For you have not loved the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, your feeling, meaning all your emotions. And with all your mind. If you haven't, you are under a curse.

Even if you've come to... Even if you're here at this engagement service, if you have broken God's law, realize that you are under the wrath of God, which is upon you, which condemns you. Not just you, but you bring that curse upon all of your family and your offspring. To the third and fourth generation, the wrath of God will be upon you.

I end with this. The scripture which says, Cursed is he that loveth not the Lord, and that means anybody who does not love Jesus. In German it says that cursed is every man who does not love Jesus.

You're under... You find yourself... That you're under a curse. That you're living under a curse and no matter what attempt you make, even if it is to find your ancestors as the intercessor for you, it will never work no matter how many cows you slaughter, what animals. None of that is of any avail.

And so if you haven't been changed by Jesus Christ, you've not been forgiven of your sins, know this, that you are under the immediate wrath of God. If you perhaps have been brought here by bus, you go back,

maybe there's an accident, we hear that you die and if we hear you have died in your sins, you have your dead under a curse and you find yourself under the wrath of God. I don't know if it's understandable or is this Greek to you? Or do you understand? Blessed is the one who hears and does.

Blessed is the one who hears and does. There were those who said, blessed is the womb that carried you, Jesus. And Jesus returned and replied to them and said, no, rather blessed is the one who hears my word and keeps it.

Let's pray. Lord Jesus, we ask you that your word wouldn't just be useless to us and in vain. Lord, returning to you being fruitful.

And Lord, we ask you to work in our midst to such a point that there would be joy, great joy in heaven because of the repentance of people. Amen.

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