

THE FUNDAMENTAL LIST

RECOVERING THE ESSENTIALS OF OUR FAITH

Message Title: The Fundamental List – Part 3

Key Scripture: Matthew 22:36–40, Mark 2:23–27, Matthew 23:23

Opening Question (Icebreaker):

- What's one funny or memorable "rule" your mom enforced in your house growing up?
- Did you ever get caught breaking it?

Read Together: Matthew 22:36–40 (NIV)

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment.

And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Discussion Questions:

- Jesus reduces over 600 laws down to two: Love God, and love people.
 - Why do you think Jesus said "all the Law and the Prophets hang on these"?
 - What's challenging about keeping something so "simple"?
- The message pointed out that some people make peripheral issues central.
 - Have you ever seen someone treat something cultural or secondary as if it were essential to being a Christian?
 - What kind of damage can that do—to our faith or to others?
- "The second is like it..."
 - What does it mean that loving people is like loving God?
 - Why is it easier to claim we love God than to actually love people?
- Read Mark 2:27 – "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath."

- What does this reveal about God's priorities?
- Can you think of times when someone used a “rule” in a way that harmed instead of helped?
- Read Matthew 23:23.
 - Jesus criticizes the religious leaders for tithing herbs but neglecting justice, mercy, and faithfulness.
 - What’s an area of your life where you might be focusing on rule-keeping but missing love?

Personal Reflection:

- Are there any ways you’ve been failing to love God or love people recently?
- Is there a relationship or situation where you need to ask for forgiveness or show more grace?

Action Step:

This week, try to intentionally do one thing that expresses love for God (heart, soul, or mind) and one thing that expresses love for someone who might be hard to love right now.

Prayer Prompt:

Ask God to help us not just know the rules, but live out the heart behind them. Thank Him for the clarity and beauty of Jesus’ teachings—and ask for courage to follow them in daily life.