

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

August 12, 2025 – Cultivating a First Commandment Lifestyle – Erlinda Cruz

THE CALL TO LOVE GOD WITH ALL OF OUR HEART (PT. 2)

The first commandment does not start with us, but with God who loves us with all His heart and in the same intensity that He loves inside the fellowship of the Trinity. This is a most dynamic truth for which we say, “Thank You,” and ask the Spirit to reveal more of God’s love for us and to impart more love for God in us. To “abide in love” is to continually realign our heart to His love.

9 “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.” (Jn. 15:9)

Jesus prayed that the Father’s love would be imparted to us (Jn. 17:26). The grace to receive God’s love and love Him in response is the greatest gift that the Spirit imparts (Rom. 5:5).

26 “...that the love with which You [the Father] loved Me may be in them...” (Jn. 17:26)

God first exhorted Israel, through Moses, to love Him with all their heart (Deut. 6:5). Later Moses prophesied Israel would love God with all their heart in the end times (Deut. 30:1-6). In Matthew 22:37, Jesus’ statement about loving God was both an exhortation and a prophecy.

5 You shall love the LORD...with all your heart...and with all your strength. (Deut. 6:5) 6 The Lord...will circumcise your heart...to love the Lord...with all your heart. (Deut. 30:6)

Jesus defined loving God as being rooted in a spirit of obedience (Jn. 14:15-21). We are to love God on God’s terms. To “keep His commands” includes setting our heart to obey and pursue Jesus.

15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments.” (Jn. 14:15)

In Matthew 22:38, Jesus elaborated on Moses’ exhortation, adding two words—first and great. Here, He defined loving God as being “the primary” response that God wants from His people. The only thing He does not have is our voluntary love, something He will not take by force.

First: The Spirit’s first priority and emphasis in the Church is for God’s people to grow in their love for God. However, our natural tendency is to focus first on gaining more blessing on our circumstances—more money, honor, comfort, influence, etc. If we do not understand that God is committed first to helping us grow in love, we can be confused about His leadership in our life.

Great: It has the greatest impact on God’s heart and our heart, and it is the greatest calling.

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19...whoever does and teaches them [commands], he shall be called great in the kingdom...
(Mt. 5:19)

Are we really able to love God in truth? Why are most love superficial and not heartfelt..? Is love a decision? Or is it a response?