

CouplesInBloom.com – First And Greatest

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The word **injunction** is literally used often in both the Old and New Testaments. Our English language does not use it in the Bible, though; it uses other words instead. The word **injunction** means a **direction given which requires joining by action**. **Injunction** is a relationship-based word: the giver connects to the receiver by communication, and the receiver connects to giver by **enjoining** them self to the giver by their active participation.

The most common English replacement for the word **injunction** is the word **command**. The problem with the word **command** is that the connotation often seems negative, harsh, or impersonal. God is all about good relationships (He invented them), so it is a **problem** if we feel His Word lacks relationship... all the way from theologically, to logistically, to emotionally. Whenever we read the word **command** in Scripture, we *need* to understand it is literally saying **injunction**... inviting us to **join** God with our whole hearted actions.

Consider these:

1. **God's greatest injunction** ⇒ Matthew 22:37-38 and Deuteronomy 6:5
2. **God's second greatest injunction** ⇒ Matthew 22:39 and Leviticus 19:18
3. **God's question**... where He gives us the choice to **join** Him or not ⇒ John 21:16.

Consider the details:

1. God says, 'Love Me with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the **first and greatest commandment / injunction**.
2. God says, 'Love your neighbor as yourself. On these two (#1 above and this #2) **commandments / injunctions** hang all the Law and the Prophets.
3. God says, 'Do you love Me?'

In John 14:15 God says ⇒ **If you love Me**, keep my **commandments / injunctions**. This word **keep** means **guard from injury or loss by protectively watching**. So in John 14:15 God says ⇒ **If you love Me**, guard your **joining to Me with your actions from injury or loss by protectively watching**. This definition is the color picture of God's **injunctions** as compared to the black and white limits of non-relational **commandments**. This is vital.

Even God's self-existence is relational: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Also, God is **love** ⇒ 1 John 4:8 even within Himself: God the Father **loves** ⇒ John 3:16; Jesus Christ is the **Beloved** Son ⇒ Mark 1:11; **Love** is of the Holy Spirit ⇒ Romans 15:20. God created, is, and owns the loving relationships we have in family and friends. Psalm 16:11 says ⇒ God makes us know the way of life; in His presence is fullness of joy. At His right hand are pleasures forever. All of these are God's will for us to enjoy; remember them.

Without losing these, God says in Matthew 22:37-38 and Deuteronomy 6:5 ⇒ 'Here is your **first and greatest** way to **join me with your actions: love Me**. David told God, 'I love you' ⇒ Psalm 18:1. Greater than loving your neighbor, greater than Bible study, greater than everything... even though those are **commandments / injunctions** with their own place, but **lesser than loving God**. What does this mean to me, practically speaking?

The **first and greatest** part of **loving God** has **NOTHING** to do with us, our neighbor or anything. It is us loving God back... **ALONE**. **THIS** is **first and greatest**... to **God**. ♥