

KNOWING GOD

WEEK ONE: LOVING GOD

PASTOR PAUL CHAPPELL | AUGUST 23, 2026

Text: Deuteronomy 6:5–7

“And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” (Deuteronomy 6:5-7)

INTRODUCTION

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Quote: “The questioner clearly assumes that a study of the nature and character of God will be unpractical and irrelevant for life. In fact, however, it is the most practical project anyone can engage in. Knowing about God is crucially important for the living of our lives.”—**J.I. Packer**

Quote: “The low view of God entertained almost universally among Christians is the cause of a hundred lesser evils everywhere among us. A whole new philosophy of the Christian life has resulted from this one basic error in our religious thinking.”—**A.W. Tozer**

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.” (Proverbs 9:10)

Quote: “The words, ‘Be still and know that I am God,’ mean next to nothing to the self-confident, bustling worshiper [today].”—**A.W. Tozer**

1. A COMMAND TO _____ (v. 4–5)

A. The _____ of Our God (v. 4)

“And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; 10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;” (Philippians 1:9–10)

THE DECLARATION OF ISRAEL’S GOD

Quote: “It asserts that the Lord God of Israel is absolutely God, and none other. He, and He alone, is Jehovah (Yahweh) the absolute, uncaused God; the One who had, by His election of them, made Himself known to Israel.”—**Barnes**

THE PURPOSE FOR THIS DECREE

Quote: “The nations around Israel worshiped many gods and goddesses, but Israel affirmed to all that there is but one true and living God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”
—**Warren Wiersbe**

B. The _____ of Our God (v. 5)

Quote: “Isn’t love a mysterious thing that just appears, a wonderful emotion that’s either there or it isn’t there? No, not according to Scripture. In the life of the believer, love is an act of the will: We choose to relate to God and to other persons in a loving way no matter how we may feel.”—**Warren Wiersbe**

“We love him, because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:19)

“Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” (1 John 4:10)

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

THE HEART: Your affections and inner desires

THE SOUL: Your very life and identity

THE MIGHT: Your strength, resources, energy, and capacity.

Quote: “But our love for God must involve the totality of the inner person – with all your heart...soul...and strength. It isn’t necessary to define and distinguish these elements, as though they were three different internal human functions....The phrase simply means ‘all that is within you,’ a total devotion to the Lord.”—**Warren Wiersbe**

2. A COMMAND TO _____ (v. 6)

A. God’s _____ for Learning (v. 6a)

TEACH US TO FEAR THE LORD

“According to all that thou desiredst of the Lord thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not. 17 And the Lord said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken.” (Deuteronomy 18:16–17)

“The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.” (Proverbs 14:27)

“The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.” (Proverbs 8:13)

“When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. 28 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: 29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord: 30 They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. 31 Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.” (Proverbs 1:27–31)

TEACH US TO OBEY THE LORD

“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.” (John 14:21)

“If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love.” (John 15:10)

B. The Believer’s _____ for Learning (v. 6b)

“Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;” (Ephesians 6:6)

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;” (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

“My son, give me thine heart, And let thine eyes observe my ways.” (Proverbs 23:26)

“Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. 12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. 13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” (Hebrews 5:11-14)

3. A COMMAND TO _____ (v. 7)

A. In _____ (v. 7a)

“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” (Ephesians 6:4)

Quote: “The best means of forming a manly, virtuous, and happy people will be found in the right education of youth. Without this foundation, every other means, in my opinion, must fail.”—**George Washington**

B. In Our Life _____ (v. 7b)

BEGINS IN THE HOME

CONTINUES IN THE CHURCH

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

“Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; 2 But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.” (Galatians 4:1-2)

"This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. 10 For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe. 11 These things command and teach."
(1 Timothy 4:9-11)

Quote: “The Christian religion is the most important and one of the first things in which all children, under a free government ought to be instructed.”—**Noah Webster**

"If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; 4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings," (1 Timothy 6:3-4)

CONCLUSION

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TAKEAWAYS FROM TODAY'S MESSAGE

1. Our command is to love God alone because He first loved us
2. Jesus refers to this as the first, or greatest commandment
“And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? 29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: 30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.” (Mark 12:28-30)
3. We desire to learn of Him because of our love for Him and the work on the cross
4. We labor for Him because He died for us
“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:” (2 Corinthians 5:14)



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