

# SCRIPTURE

## Matthew 22:34-40

- ▶ Please sign and pass the black books
- ▶ Kids (ages 4-4<sup>th</sup> grade) are dismissed for Children's Church *after* Scripture Reading

# The Power to Love Others:

Matthew 22:34-40

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## I. The Heart of Unbelief:

- A Challenge:

*Matthew 22: 34-36*

“But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?”

## II. The Greatest Commandment:

Love the Lord your God:

*Matthew 22:37-38*

“And he said to him, “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 first commandment.”

## B. A Foundation in Scripture:

### *Deuteronomy 6:5*

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

### *Revelation 21:3*

“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.”

*John 17:24*

“Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.”

We were made to enjoy God eternally in intimate relationship, and to love Him above all else.

### III. How the Second Command is like the first:

- The relationship of the first and second commandment:

*Matthew 22:39-40*

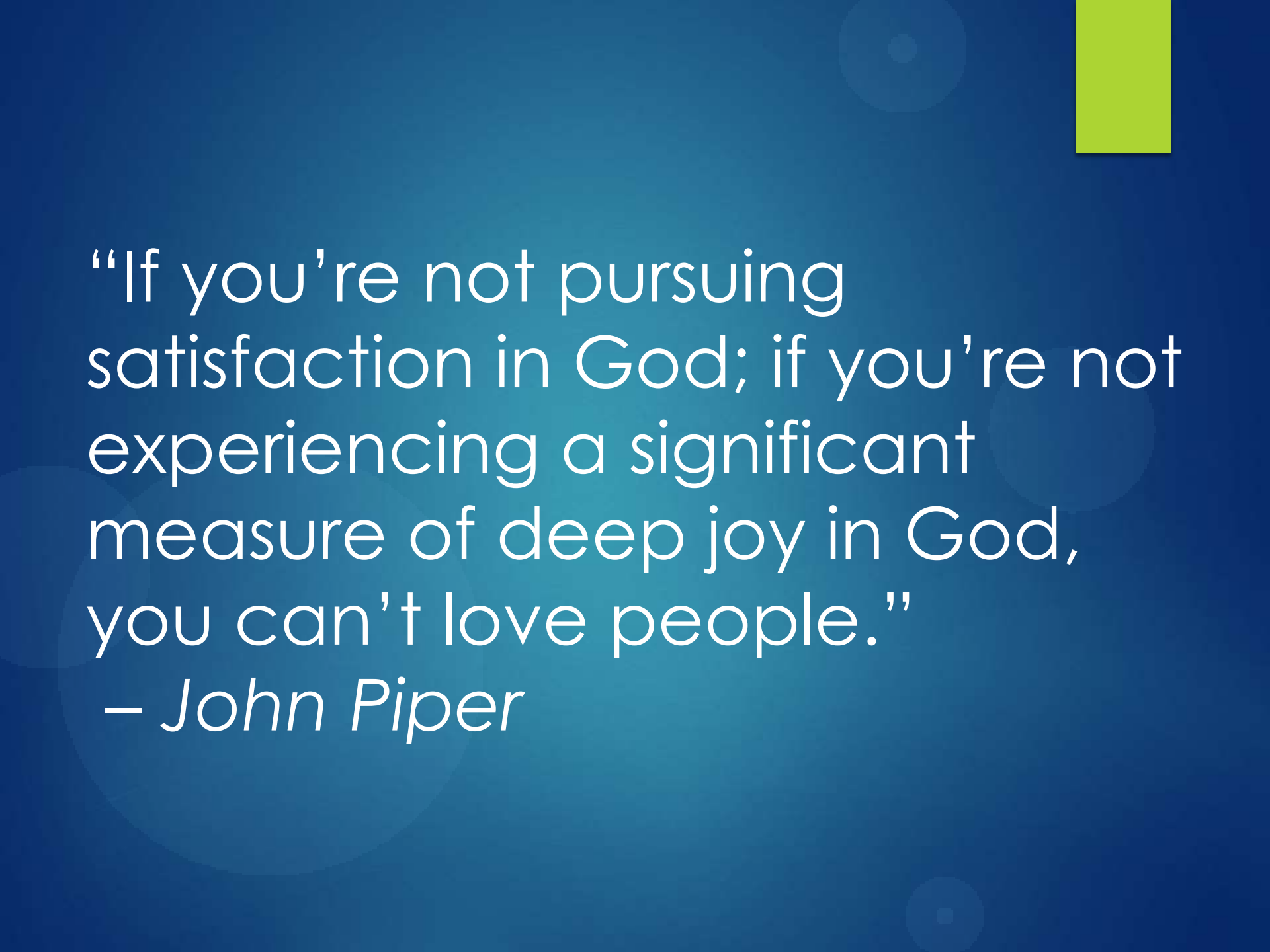
“And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

- The first command is necessary to produce the second:



## *1 John 2:7-11*

“Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.”



“If you’re not pursuing satisfaction in God; if you’re not experiencing a significant measure of deep joy in God, you can’t love people.”

– *John Piper*

2. The Law and Prophets were meant to produce, in the life of the believer, love for God and others

*Matthew 22:40*

“On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

*Hosea 6:6*

“For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.”

3. The two great commands were meant to prepare us for the gospel:

*Matthew 5:48*

“You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

*Romans 6:23*

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

The commands to Love God and your neighbor as yourself point to and are the effect of the gospel.