



“ One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

— Mark 12:28-31

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One of the definitions of “leader” from *Merriam-Webster* is this: “to guide, especially by going in advance.”²⁸ In a simple nutshell form, that is exactly what the Christian leader is to do: lovingly accompany people in their walk with God, ushering them closer to God’s love with every step.

And every Christian has that capacity. No matter how long you have been following Christ, no matter what your talents and resources are, every single Christ-follower has within them the call to lead people closer to God.

You may never have considered yourself a leader before. Or perhaps you’ve been leading for years. But you are a leader.

We can make leadership — and faith — so very, very, very complicated. We can make it so intimidating and confusing. But when he was asked what was the most important commandment, Jesus answered simply: “*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and all your mind,*” and “*Love your neighbor as yourself.*”

That’s it!
Fabulously straightforward.
And deeply challenging.

Love God with everything that is in you, and love the people around you with the same kind of love you have for yourself.

Thank you for taking part in this *Love. Understand. Serve.* study. I pray that your leadership — in whatever context you find yourself — will reflect how well you love God, understand yourself, and joyfully serve others.

Because if we can lead like that, there is no telling what God can do through us!

May God bless you and yours, this day and always,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hedy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, elegant loop at the end.

FINAL NOTES