

The Ties That Bind

Week 1

Loving God First

Matthew 22:37-38

“Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.”

1. Loving God with Your _____

- **Scripture:** Proverbs 4:23 – “Above all else, guard your _____, for everything you do flows from it.”
- **Illustration:** A compass points true _____ when aligned; your heart points to God when _____ with Him.
- **Application:** _____ your affections and desires to God. Identify _____ that take your focus away from Him.

2. Loving God with Your _____

- **Scripture:** Psalm 42:1 – “As the deer pants for streams of water, so my _____ pants for you, my God.”
- **Illustration:** Just as a stream nourishes the deer, God nourishes our souls when we _____ Him.
- **Application:** Reflect on how your relationship with God shapes your _____ and identity.

3. Loving God with Your _____

- **Scripture:** Romans 12:2 – “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your _____.”
- **Illustration:** A garden flourishes when the weeds are removed; our minds flourish when renewed by God’s _____.
- **Application:** Commit to studying Scripture and _____ on God’s truth daily.

Challenge:

Reflect: Which area—heart, soul, or mind—needs your attention most?

Act: Take one step this week to deepen your love for God in that area.

Pray: Ask God to help you love Him fully with your heart, soul, and mind.