

## LOVING GOD, LOVING PEOPLE: "LOVING PEOPLE GREATLY"

**THESIS:** Love People Greatly

**TEXT:** Mark 12:28-40

**OPEN:** (*foxnews.com*: "Who Is Jesus? Google Home Doesn't Have A Clue" by Todd Starnes 01/26/18)

### Who Is Jesus? Google Home Doesn't Have A Clue

By Todd Starnes (*foxnews.com* 01/26/18)

A number of users have complained that Google's popular virtual assistant can identify Allah and Buddha but cannot identify Jesus Christ. "Google, who is Allah?" one Google user asked on a now-viral Facebook video. "According to Wikipedia, in Islamic theology God is the all-powerful, all knowing creator, sustainer, ordainer and judge of everything in existence," the virtual assistant replied. But when she asked Google who Jesus Christ was, the device replied, "Sorry, I don't know how to help with that yet." And when she asked who Jesus was, the device responded, "Sorry, I'm not sure how to help." The same thing happened to David Sams, of Brentwood, Tennessee. "I even asked Google who is David Sams? Google knew who I was, but Google did not know who Jesus was, Google did not know who Jesus Christ was, and Google did not know who God was," Sams told Fox 17 (Memphis). Google released a statement to Fox 17 saying it meant no disrespect to Christians or the Son of God. "The reason the Google Assistant didn't respond with information about 'Who is Jesus' or 'Who is Jesus Christ' wasn't out of disrespect but instead to ensure respect," Google said in a statement. A Google spokesperson went on to say that content from certain topics can be vulnerable to vandalism and spam. And if their systems detect such circumstances, the Assistant might not reply. "We're exploring different solutions and temporarily disabling these responses for religious figures on the Assistant," Google said. In the meantime, perhaps I can be of some assistance to the folks at Google Home. Hey Google, Jesus is the Son of God, the Risen Savior and whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but shall have everlasting life. See John 3:16.

In **Mark 12:28-40** let's discover how to greatly love people which will honor our relationship with Jesus Christ.

#### 1. LOVE PEOPLE GREATLY BY SPEAKING GOD'S WORD.

A. **Mark 12:35** "While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, He asked, 'How is it that the teachers of the law say that the Christ is the son of David?'"

1. **Historical:** The name "Son of David" was one of the OT references for the Messiah (2 *Sam* 7:12-16; *Ps* 89:3; *Isa* 9:6-7). It was the most popular title among Jews of Biblical times in referring to the Messiah.

a. **Matthew 9:27-28** "As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed Him, calling out, 'Have mercy on us, Son of David!' When He had gone indoors, the blind men came to Him, and He asked them, 'Do you believe that I am able to do this?' 'Yes, Lord,' they replied."

b. **Illustration:** Who do some people today say Jesus is?

1. Islam: To the Muslim, Jesus Christ is only a man--a prophet inferior to Muhammad. They don't believe Jesus died for man's sins; claiming Judas, not Jesus, died on the cross.
2. Unitarianism: They reject the deity of Jesus and believe He was no more or less divine than any man.
3. Jehovah Witness: They do not believe Jesus is God instead they say He was God's first created creature--denying Christ's deity.
4. Judaism: This religion does not accept Jesus as God's Son nor as the Messiah.

5. Mormonism: They teach that Jesus is a created being—the elder brother of Lucifer and one of many "gods" being once sinful and imperfect, earning His own salvation (John Ankerberg, *Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Mormonism*, p. 131).
  6. Hinduism: They believe that every man is a "god." Gandhi said "It was more than I could believe that Jesus was the only incarnate son of God. And that only he who believed in Him would have everlasting life. If God could have sons, all of us were His sons. If Jesus was like God then all men were like God and could be God Himself!"
- B. **Mark 12:36-37** "David himself, speaking by the Holy Spirit, declared: 'The Lord said to my Lord: 'Sit at My right hand until I put Your enemies under Your feet.' <sup>37</sup>David himself calls Him 'Lord.' How then can He be his son?' The large crowd listened to Him with delight."
1. **Historical:** In Biblical days, to be seated at the right hand of a king was a privileged place reserved for only one and that was the king's firstborn son. Thus, the prince was an extension of the king—his equal in honor, power, and authority.
    - a. *Love people by speaking God's Word that Jesus is God's Son and Messiah of the world.*
      1. Speaking that Jesus is God's Son and mankind's Messiah may bring the challenge from some who say, "Show me in the Bible where Jesus says He is God." Here are a few of many verses:
        - a. **Matthew 12:8** "(Jesus answered), 'The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.'"
        - b. **Mark 14:61b-62** "Again the high priest asked Him, 'Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?' 'I am,' said Jesus. 'And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of Heaven.'"
        - c. **Luke 5:20-21** "When Jesus saw their faith, He said, 'Friend, your sins are forgiven.' The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, 'Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?'"
        - d. **John 5:17-24** "Jesus said to them, 'My Father is always at His work to this very day, and I, too, am working.' For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill Him; not only was He breaking the Sabbath, but He was even calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God. Jesus gave them this answer: 'I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by Himself; He can do only what He sees His Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all He does...For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom He is pleased to give it. Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent Him.'"
2. **LOVE PEOPLE GREATLY BY SERVING GOD'S WORD.**
- A. **Mark 12:29-33** "'The most important,' answered Jesus, 'is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>30</sup>Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' <sup>31</sup>The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these.' <sup>32</sup>'Well said, Teacher,' the man replied. 'You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but Him. <sup>33</sup>To love Him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.'"
  1. **Love** (Greek: *agapao*) is unselfish, loyal, and devoted charity—seeking the greatest good of its object. Agape love indicates a selfless concern for the well-being of others. Agape love is an act of the will, a deliberate choice. *Agapao* can also be translated "dearly loves," so feelings may be involved, too.
    - a. **1 John 4:9-10, 19-21** "This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world *that we might live through Him*. This is love; not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another...We love because He first loved us. If anyone says, 'I love God,' yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone

who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And He has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.”

1. *Live through Jesus by loving family.*
  - a. **Colossians 3:18-21** “Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.”
2. *Live through Jesus by loving church.*
  - a. **Colossians 1:4-5** “...we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints—the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in Heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel...”
3. *Live through Jesus by loving enemies.*
  - a. **Luke 6:27b-28** “Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”
4. *Live through Jesus by loving the least.*
  - a. **Matthew 25:40** “The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.’”

**CONCLUSION:** To love people is to love God and to love God is to love people.

**Mark 12:38-40** “Jesus said, ‘Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted in the marketplaces,<sup>39</sup> and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. <sup>40</sup>They devour widows’ houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. Such men will be punished most severely.’”

**Historical Insight from Walter Wessel:** “Teachers of the law wore lavish robes and occupied the bench in front of the ark that contained the sacred scrolls of the law and the prophets. There they could be seen by all the worshipers in the synagogue. The teachers of the law were often invited to banquets and given special places of honor. What Jesus condemns is their seeking such honor for themselves instead of for God whom they professed to serve. Wealthy widows especially were preyed on by the greedy and dishonest among these men. To rob the poor and the bereaved under the appearance of personal virtue doubles the guilt. Theologian Moule rightly says: ‘There is no evidence that all the teachers of the law were frauds, but the most influential of them seemed to have conceived a bitter hatred of Jesus, because they were using their powers selfishly and detested His exposure of their real motives’” (*Expositor’s Bible Commentary, Vol. 8, p. 739-740*).

**Mark 10:43b-45** “(Jesus said), ‘Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.’”

A motivation of PVCC is to influence our community through the good words and works of the gospel of Christ thereby asking the question: “If our congregation no longer existed would anyone notice?”

**CLOSE:** Let’s live through Jesus by speaking and serving His word—it’s loving God, loving people greatly.