Back to the Basics of Loving God

By Daphne Cortese-Lambert November 19, 2026

The great and supreme commandment, to love the Lord your God with all your heart, energy, and thought, summarizes the first four commandments in Exodus 20. The concept sounds simple, but in an age of constant distraction it can be difficult. If you're struggling, lacking peace or purpose, wrestling with doing what is right, or just feeling blah, this message is for you. God is calling you to experience more of what He has for you. Exploring the roots of the Great Command in the first four commandments deepens our understanding of our relationship with God, our duty to Him, and our worship of Him.

“You shall have no other gods before me” (Ex. 20:3). Examine what you allow to rule your life. Where is your hope and what are you living for? Anything you put above God in your life becomes a tool for the enemy to manipulate you. Your relationship with God is something that can never be taken and is meant to be foundational.

“You shall not make for yourself an idol” (Ex. 20:4). Do not create, bow down to, or worship carved images or physical representations of God. Where do you spend your energy? Our time, energy, and thoughts are all forms of worship. Social media and marketing show how easily idols form and shape generations. What we value influences our children (v.5-6).

“You shall not misuse the Name of the Lord your God” (Ex. 20:7). God's Name is powerful, sacred, and holy. We misuse it when we invoke it carelessly, to manipulate a situation, or use it as slang to fit in. When we call ourselves Christians, we honor His Name by reflecting His nature with all our passion and by how we live.

The sabbath is a day set apart for faith-rest and gratefulness in all that God has accomplished.

Knowing and worshiping God is a daily, moment-to-moment practice, not just a song or ritual. What joy to be consumed with love for Him, making every choice to please God above man! It takes a heavenly, spiritual focus over the world's distractions and constant reflection to give our whole hearts. We live with an eternal focus, not comfort or escape. True worship fixes mind, will, and emotion on God, and using all our energy to love Him produces joyful obedience. We choose His perspective over our limited one, using each day to love, encourage, forgive, and choose faith over fear. Let’s impact generations with goodness! Abundant life is waiting for you, wrapped in the Love of God.