



Marriage Growth-Track

Week 2 - Day 3

All In

by Glen & Rebecca Davis

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

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. And second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Matthew 22:34-40

This verse tells us in no uncertain terms how to love God: with all our heart and soul and mind. It doesn't say some of our heart or some of our soul or even some of our mind; it says ALL. All of it. We are commanded, not just suggested, to love God with everything we've got. This is what we see in these verses:

- We are to fully commit to God our desires, passions, emotions and will and strive to align them with what He desires for us;
- We should consciously choose to live our lives fully committed to who we are and were made to be in Christ;
- We are to commit to God in all our thoughts and actions in ways that glorify Him

But beyond telling us how to love The Lord, this verse also tells us the tremendous importance He places on us loving Him with this all-in kind of love. There's no halfway option on the table when it comes to living and loving like Jesus. He doesn't say, "hey, meet me halfway and we're all good."

He offers **His all** and expects nothing less from **His followers**.

This 'all in' for Christ way of life is intended to show up in every area of our lives—the easy, 'I-got-this-Jesus' areas and the ones ridiculously out of our control and beyond our abilities. This was the case for one FOTP couple when they were asked to help teach a Sunday School class years ago (when Sunday School was even a thing!). They had previously said 'no' to leading the class, but eventually agreed to help co-teach, believing they could lean on the other couple to provide the direction.

When they eventually became the sole teachers, it was, in the words of the wife, "not

pretty.” “We had very few couples committed to coming regularly, and oftentimes, only one person would show up. We were ready to throw in the towel because we clearly we not cut out for this!” she said.

But God was not ready to release them from this role...yet.

“After much prayer and God working diligently on our hearts, we knew we must focus on truly being the vessels of God’s love and fully commit to this group. And so we did.

“We prayed relentlessly for the members of this group and for ourselves. We sought every opportunity to build relationships—my husband mentoring other young men and me leading a Bible study. We studied God’s word for hours so that we would be prepared to teach and give wisdom when asked. We gave it all we had and asked God to direct this group as He wanted, not what we wanted for it.

“We grew tremendously, but that wasn’t our real goal. Our real aim was to reach people with God’s word and help them along wherever they were on their journey with Him. He blessed our efforts and so many grew in their faith during this time—some even accepted Christ for the first time!

“We saw God change so many lives despite our shortcomings. When we look back, all we did was commit to love God with all we had to offer. He did the real work!”

This couple got it right—so very right. They honored to call of Christ to love Him with all their heart and soul and mind and allowed Him to grow and develop them to better and further than they thought possible.

Be forewarned: To do this, it takes some serious intentionality and some sold-out commitment to accepting God’s plan for your life—even when the circumstances seem to say otherwise. It is a day-by-day process, this growing in dependence upon God. And it’s so very different from our squeaky-wheel-gets-the-grease way of life.

This is grander. Forever-focused. With an eternal perspective.

Discussion Questions:

1. Is how you are treating others a reflection of how you love God?
2. Are you All-In, or are you on the outside looking in? Are you where you want to be? What keeps you from All-In commitment?

Action Steps:

- Step 1 Get involved in a small group.
- Step 2 Find an area to serve together at church.
- Step 3 Commit to read the Bible every week.
- Step 4 Commit to tithing this week.

Prayer:

“Father, God, we thank you for your Word which tells us to simply love you with all that we have. You didn’t want it to be complicated; just to love you in all that we say and think and new. Thank you for your Holy Spirit who is always there to help us as we seek your face in every aspect of our lives. Please bring to our attention the ways in which we can love you more completely so that we can fully commit to you our hearts, souls, and minds.”