

The Great Commandment - Matthew 22 vv34-40

1. What does it mean to be commanded to love God? How do we approach the idea that love is an order to be obeyed?! Refer to Matthew 7 v21, John 14 vv15/24 and I John 5 v3.
2. Why does Jesus link so closely loving our neighbour and loving God? Read the sources of these two commandments in Deuteronomy 6 v4 and Leviticus 19 v18.
3. Jesus says to the Lawyer that all the law and the prophets hang on the commandments to love God and love your neighbour. What does that mean, and how should it shape our approach to handling the Old Testament books about the law and the prophets?
4. What does Jesus' response to the Lawyer's question say about his ultimate authority? Read Matthew 21 v23 to get some background as to what is in the mind of the Lawyer when he asks the question.
5. What "authorities" do people in our culture turn to about the big questions of today? Where do those who shape opinion in the public domain about those big questions get their authority from (celebrities, sociologists, journalists, politicians, etc)?
6. Jesus makes it clear that ultimate authority resides with God and that we must submit to him and obey his commandments. But how does that chime with the prevailing anti-authoritarian attitudes in our culture? How can we reconcile a gospel of love and liberty with an apparently authoritarian understanding of truth?