

Deacon's Beacons

December 6, 2021

“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:30–31

This is, of course, the answer that Jesus gives when asked what is the greatest commandment. He is not creating a new theology. He is simply quoting two passages, one from Deuteronomy and one from Leviticus. But in those two passages we can see the entirety of the law. First and foremost is the love of God. Then what follows immediately is the love of our neighbor. Notice that love of self is not there except as Jesus uses it to compare the love you have for your neighbor. Being a Christian, being a true follower of Jesus is laying down your life for others. That can be hard but it is possible. If everyone would embrace that way, the world would be a far better place. You would not have to worry about yourself because your neighbor will do that for you. The Spirit of Christmas? No, the spirit of a life well lived.

Go raibh síocháin Chríost a bheith in éineacht leat.

Deacon Mike