

## Preferences

*In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.—I John 4:10*

We all have preferences, some of them inconsequential like whether we prefer romaine lettuce or iceberg lettuce in a salad. Others are of grave importance such as where we go to church, what vocation we enter, and who we marry.

There are many things that are not mere preference but they are things we love and devote our focus and time to. They can become the things that govern our lives. When God gave the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20, He gave the first one as, “Thou shall have no other gods before me.” Often our preferences become our gods.

In Matthew 22:37-38, “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.” This is an extraordinary commandment and causes us to think that God should be the center of our thoughts and actions. He should be the focal point of all our affections. We should love Him so much that with everything we think about, everything we do, everything we say we are glorifying our Savior. John Piper said, “sin is—dishonoring God by preferring other things over Him, and acting on those preferences. . . .We glorify what we enjoy most.”

We can probably remember a time not too long ago when we did or said something that did not glorify the Lord. We chose to do what we wanted rather than what God wanted. Or, it may have been something we did without much thought—like worrying about a situation we were in. In all these things, we preferred our way and dishonored God.

*Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.—Colossians 3:2*