



This week we kick off a brand-new sermon series called: *Pursue*. For the month of February, we're going to focus on God's love and how it impacts our lives. In Matthew 22 we read that the religious leaders tried to trap Jesus with a question. In his response, Jesus does a great job at summarizing the 600+ Jewish Laws into one statement. Jesus knew the answer was all about love. He encouraged us to focus on loving God, loving others, and loving ourselves. The words that so easily rolled off Jesus' lips can be tough for us to implement in our lives. We have past hang-ups, negative interactions, and a poor ability to put boundaries in our lives. Before studying these questions, ask God to help you to understand love in a new way this week - the way that He loves.

1. Neal started the sermon by sharing a story of a time when he had a difficult time loving someone he worked with. Think about a time in your life that you've had a hard time loving someone, how did you respond to that person? Did it work?
2. Read Matthew 22:34-38. Jesus tells us to love God with all our heart. Read Psalm 73:25, 1 John 4:19, & 2 Corinthians 3:16. What does it look like to love God with our entire heart? What holds us back from loving God with all our heart?
3. Jesus also invited us to love God with all our mind. There are some churches that want you to 'check your mind at the door' and simply trust. But Jesus invites us to love God with our mind. How can we love God with our mind this week?
4. Next, Jesus invited us to love God with all our soul (Matthew 22:37). Read: Matthew 11:29, Mark 8:36-37, Luke 1:46 & 1 Peter 2:11. How do these passages provide instruction on what it looks like to love God with all our soul?
5. Jesus added to the question and told us to love our neighbor as ourselves (read Matthew 22:39). How come we don't love others? Read 1 John 4:11, 1 Peter 4:8, Romans 12:9, & Ephesians 4:32. How can we love our neighbor this week?
6. Neal said that one of the reasons we don't know how to love our neighbors is that we don't love ourselves. Read Micah 6:8, 1 John 3:1, and John 3:16-17. What holds you back from loving yourself? How can you grow in loving yourself this week?
7. Jesus was able to answer the religious leaders' question with Scripture (read Deuteronomy 6:4). Do you feel confident in knowing God's word so that you can answer questions based on Scripture? If not, how can you know God's better? (see Psalm 119:11)
8. Close your time in prayer. Talk about who you will invite to Coastline.