

Sermon: **Total Allegiance (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)**

Date: **October 29, 2017**

Christ demands our total allegiance. If someone were to look into your life and observe the way you live, would they conclude that your allegiance belongs to the LORD? Is your love for the LORD obvious to others? For this week's study, we'll be in Deuteronomy 6. Deuteronomy 6:4-5 is often referred to as the Shema. Orthodox Jews today, as well as Jews throughout the ages, quote verses 4 and 5 twice a day, every day. In Mark 12:29-30, Jesus quotes the Shema and establishes it as the greatest commandment for us to follow as Christians. The LORD alone deserves our total, undivided allegiance. Thus, we must seek to love him with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our might. Our love for God directly affects the way we live. Our devotion to Christ impacts our personal life, our family life, and our reputation in the community. We must be intentional about teaching our children the Word of God and we must live as ones who have been called out of the world to live for Jesus Christ.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and ensure that you have listened to the sermon.
 - a. Verse 4 begins with the call, "Hear O Israel." What does this teach us about the importance of what follows this statement?
 - b. Verse 4 continues, "The LORD our God, the LORD is one." What different truths about God do we see in this statement?
 - c. What must our response be to the truth that the LORD alone is our God?
 - d. What does it mean to love the LORD with all your *heart*? With all your *soul*? With all your *might*?
 - e. What can we do to ensure the words that God has commanded us in Scripture are on our heart (v. 6)? Why is this important?
 - f. How can we show total allegiance to the LORD in our families (v. 7)? What does this practically look like in our day to day life in the home?

- g. Why must we prioritize teaching the Word of God to the next generation in our families and in our church?
- h. Is verse 8 meant to be taken literally? How should we interpret verse 8 and seek to obey it?
- i. How are we to interpret and apply the command in verse 9?
- j. What are some examples of how we as Christians live distinct from the world? What are some examples of things our church does that is contrary to the world?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. Why does our total allegiance belong to the LORD and him only? What are some examples of things in our lives that can hinder our total devotion to Christ?
3. What can we do to cultivate a greater love for the LORD our God in our personal life?
4. What can we do to cultivate a greater love for the LORD our God in our family life?
5. Why is it important that we live distinct from the world? How is God calling you to be distinct from the world as you seek to live wholly devoted to him alone?

Accountability Question

Is there an area of your life that is not wholly devoted to God alone? What changes would you like to make in this area?