

Friday

A Top-Button Lifestyle

Today's Scripture Mark 12:28-31

Guys who wear button-up shirts know the struggle that comes with being in a hurry and trying to line all the buttons up and getting them pushed through the proper slot. On more than one occasion, I have worked my way down from top to bottom, pushing each button through the button hole, only to reach the end and discover that the buttons were misaligned. I had slipped the top button through the wrong slot and, well, you can guess what happened.

If you get the top button right, every other button falls into place. What is true in a fashion sense, is even truer in a spiritual sense. If we place God in the proper place in our lives, everything else falls into place. We might call this a “top button lifestyle.” You get God right; you get everything right. This does not mean, of course, that your life will be one endless episode of colossal bliss. However, even the misalignments in life are easier to bear with God on your side.

In Mark 12:28, a scribe asks Jesus, “*Which commandment is the most important of all?*”

Jesus responds by stating, “*The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 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.’*” (Mark 12:29-30)

Without further prompting, Jesus continues, “*The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.*” (Mark 12:31)

This is the essence of Christianity—love God with all your being, and love your neighbor as yourself. These two commandments should be the core of our existence. They are the top two buttons. When we fit them in the proper slots, everything else aligns appropriately. If a devotion to God comes first, loving our neighbor will naturally follow. The other buttons like: family, friends, work, etc., will fall into the proper order as well.

Put God in His place. Put others in their place. Make loving God and loving others top priority!

Today, I will...seek one person that I can serve. I will show Christ to them by helping them in some way.