

*Complacent love – A love compelled by delight in the beauty of another*

*Benevolent love – A love compelled to advance the good of another*

-Matthew 22:34-36

### **I. Loving God – “The greatest and first commandment” [37-38]**

- A. Loving God starts with the heart’s complacent love in God [37]
  - 1. Because of God’s self-sufficiency
    - Deuteronomy 6:3
  - 2. Because of God’s beauty
    - Psalm 37:4
  - 3. Because of the heart’s primacy
- B. Loving God continues to the entire being’s complacent and benevolent love towards God [37]
- C. Loving God is held to the standard of perfection [37-38]

### **II. Loving people – “A second is like it” [39]**

- A. Loving people flows from the first command to love God
  - 1 John 4:20-21
- B. Loving people is foundationally a benevolent love that does not require a complacent love for others
  - Leviticus 19:18
  - Mathew 5:44
- C. Loving God is held to the standard of perfection
  - John 13:34

### **III. Our Need for Christ – “The prerequisite commandment” [40-46]**

- A. The identity of the Christ – “God-man” [40-45]
    - Matthew 22:36
  - B. The purpose of the Christ – “Spiritual Savior” [46]
    - Matthew 22:40
- 2 Corinthians 4:6