



Wrapping Up the "10 Values That Grow Strong Christians", Series  
March 29, 2009 – Will Mackey

## HOW WELL DO WE LOVE OTHERS?

*<sup>37</sup>Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup>This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup>And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' <sup>40</sup>All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:37-40)*

1. The distinguishing mark of a follower of Christ is love for God and others.
  - 1 John 4:7-8, John 13:34-35
2. This is an astonishing command. (Matthew 22:39)
  - Self love creates a longing/commitment in us to be healthy, safe, happy, fulfilled, and successful. We are to long/commit to help others experience these as if they were us.
3. This is an impossible command *UNLESS* we experience God's transformation.
  - God's Transformation – is the change in us that takes place as we receive God's love and respond back to Him in love.
4. This is an impossible command *UNLESS* we utilize God's tool. God's tool is the church. The Scriptures describe the church as a:
  - A Family (Acts 4:32, 34-35), providing care, nurture, and protection.
  - A Body (Romans 12:4-8), providing direction, workforce, and outreach.