

The love of Jesus

By [Thomas Jay Oord](#)

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Jesus Christ is rightly regarded as the most important person for helping us understand love. Especially at this time of year, it seems wise to ponder the love of Jesus.

Jesus lived about two thousand years ago in present-day Israel and Palestine. Almost all that is known about Jesus comes from the New Testament. Four books – Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John – are accounts of his birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection. In other New Testament books and in writings produced in the past two millennia, many have interpreted and developed Jesus' love legacy.

Jesus drew upon teachings from his Jewish heritage to offer what many consider the central insight of his ministry. Matthew records this insight in these words: “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” Jesus adds, “Upon these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets” (Mt. 22:37-40). Mark’s version of the same insight concludes with Jesus adding that there are no greater commandment than these two (Mk. 12:31).

In the book of Luke, Jesus is asked what must be done to inherit eternal life. Jesus answers with these same two love commandments. The questioner responds to Jesus, however, by asking who one’s neighbor might be.

Read more at [For the Love of Wisdom and the Wisdom of Love](#).