

Family TableTalk

Conversation 52

The Great Debate

read

Mark 12:28-31

think

Does your home ever turn into the Great Debate? Debating can include taking sides on who is the greatest sports team, music group, politician and even whose turn it is to do the dishes or take out the trash! Debates have been common for centuries, and are found numerous times throughout scripture. Religious leaders during Jesus' time would sit in the temple and debate for hours about God's commands and how they impact daily life.

During one of these debates a leader turned to Jesus and asked for his input. Jesus' reply, recorded in Mark 12:28-34, reframed that debate (check out the "mic drop" moment in vs. 34) and has the potential to reframe every argument and debate in our homes today. Growing to be more Christlike means remembering to love God in everything, love whom He has designed us to be, and love others as we grow in loving ourselves. This is truly the 'Greatest Commandment!' The challenge is that the world causes a 'Great Debate' to happen every day inside our minds between following God's way or the World's way. This debate creates a challenge to know what loving God and others looks like on a practical level. Developing godly habits is essential to help our family members navigate through this daily challenge and live out the greatest commandment. Small, intentional habits - such as Pray, Study, Serve, Share & Worship - can become the foundation of living for God in a way that's not debatable!

apply

- What kinds of debates take place in your home and what are the motivations behind these debates?
- What are the greatest challenges you face in growing to love God with everything (that is what heart, soul, mind and strength means) and then love others as you love yourself?
- What practical tools do you have to help each member of your family grow in living out Mark 12:30-31 daily?

pray

Father God, we thank you that one thing we never have to debate is how much you love us. Help us Lord to grow in our ability to love you with our whole life and love the people you have placed around us. Guide us in loving those people as you expand the love we have for who you've made us to be. Bless our family so we can be a blessing to you and to others. Amen!

by Dr. Dave Coryell

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