

*Study Guide for
The Love Revelation*

Book 1: The Royal Law

Chapter 9

6. List all the things you've learned about Natividad. What do you know about her religious background and her educational level?

7. The crucifix represents an important element in this vignette. What is it and why does it play an important role in Levy's life?

8. Why do you think the author titled this vignette, "Pilate Revisited"? (Hint: see John 18:38.)

Personal Assessment Questions:

- Have you ever had someone attempt to share his or her faith with you? How did you respond? Looking back, what were the things that impressed you or didn't impress you? Did anything leave a bad taste in your mouth?

- When was the last time you shared your faith with an unbeliever, and what "tactic" did you use? More importantly, why did you share your faith with that person? Was it to win a soul for Christ, or did you share your faith because you really loved that person?

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- Does your church encourage you to share your faith? If so, do they actually teach you how to share your faith? If they teach you how to share your faith, how do they do that and what do they emphasize, presenting the truth or loving them with good deeds into the kingdom?

The Chapter: “Loving God Means *What?*” (Love and the Great Commandments)

1. What is the “radical change” concerning food that is mentioned in the introduction to the chapter? (If you are unfamiliar with the concept of “clean” and “unclean” foods, it would be helpful to read the appropriate sections in Leviticus 11 and Peter’s vision in Acts 10:9-16.)

2. An analogy is made between the Law (block of ice) and love (water). Explain the analogy. Why is the “block of ice” unable to address all situations in life? (If you are unfamiliar with “The Great Commandments,” they are explained in the following sections.)

3. What critical mistake did Joseph Fletcher make when he made the assertion that “the right thing to do in any given situation is the most loving thing”?

4. What is the “great and foremost commandment”? (See Deuteronomy 6:5 and Matthew 22:37).

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5. In the Old Testament, what did it mean to keep the great commandment? Does one's heart need to "be in it" in order to fulfill the great commandment?

6. Can you list the four problems associated with the belief that obeying the great commandment means obeying the law, whether it's OT Law, a church's laws or personal laws?
 1. _____.
 2. _____.
 3. _____.
 4. _____.

7. In the New Testament, how often is the great and foremost commandment referred to outside the Gospels? Is its absence an oversight by New Testament authors? Is it something that the reader is just supposed to assume should be there? Or do you believe it was intentionally omitted?

8. What is the "second commandment" and from where does it originate? (See Leviticus 19:18.)

9. Why do you think neither the Apostle Paul, James nor John ever refer to the great and foremost commandment as a standard of godly behavior?

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10. What is the “new commandment”?

11. Now, the important question: Based on what is presented in the last section of the chapter, how does a Christian today fulfill the great and foremost commandment?

12. The author states, “To fulfill the royal law was to fulfill the first and foremost commandment *and* the new commandment to love one another.” Comment on the author’s statement, “...The first and foremost commandment was intimately tied to the Law, and the believer is no longer under the Law.”

13. Write what you believe is the main point of the chapter.

Main Point: _____

The Personal Assessment Questions:

- What new things did you learn about the great and foremost commandment, that you should love God with all your heart, mind, strength and soul? Have you been trying to love God by keeping a set of laws?

