

What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus? Three Essentials:

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Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (NIV)

One of the teachers of the law came and ... asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" ²⁹ "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and all your strength." Mark 12:28-30 (NIV)

Hear, O Israel: The <u>LORD</u> our God, the <u>LORD</u> is one. ⁵ Love the <u>LORD</u> your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (NIV)

Our Jewish friends call this "Shema Yisr Shema =	ael"
Yisrael =	

LORD is the personal name of God and means Yahweh (Hebrew) or Jehovah (Greek)

Yahweh means

God was saying to Moses: I am life itself. I am the source of all life.

How are we to live in response to this?

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Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (NIV)

"The most important one" answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

Mark 12:29-30 (NIV)

Why did Jesus say this was the most important commandment?

- Jesus knew that this was the foundation of the faith.
- As a faithful Jew, He had said those words every day when He awoke, entered or exited a home, and when He went to sleep.

Two Statements in the Shema Yisrael

1. There is a God and God is the source of all that exists.

Why I believe in God:

- Because of the beauty, majesty and order of creation.
- Because of the witness of other people.
- 2. God is worthy of our love and worship.

It is not enough to simply believe.

¹⁹ Are there still some among you who hold that "only believing" is enough? Believing in one God? Well, remember that the demons believe this too—so strongly that they tremble in terror!

James 2:19 (LB)

Sources: Worship and the Lives We Live, Unknown author. The Greatest Commandment, Adam Hamilton.