

*The Essential Commandment: A Disciple's Guide to Loving God and Others*  
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978-0-8308-1088-8

## Living the Impossible Possibility

Would Jesus ask something of us that couldn't be done?

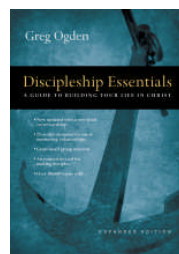
This is the startling question that opens *The Essential Commandment*, a new handbook by pastor Greg Ogden. When Jesus commanded his disciples to “love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength” and to “love your neighbor as yourself,” did he really think we could do it?

“When we hear this expectation we’re *supposed* to say, “There is no way in the world that in myself I will ever be able to live up to this standard,”” notes Ogden. “This realization should cause us to cast ourselves unreservedly on the grace of God and repent of our sin-sick soul. Then we are flooded with the light of God’s accepting grace. . . . We find within a new motivation and desire to want to become all that God hopes us to be.”

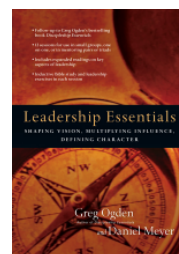
With wisdom and insight from years of pastoral experience and discipleship training, Ogden provides a helpful and practical resource for those who truly want to be changed by Christ into people who love God and others with their whole being. Following the format of his bestselling *Discipleship Essentials*, each chapter includes

- a core truth
- a memory verse
- an inductive Bible study
- a reading on one aspect of the Great Commandment

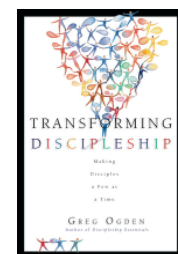
Also by Greg Ogden:



*Discipleship Essentials*  
978-0-8308-1087-1



*Leadership Essentials*  
978-0-8308-1097-0  
[With Daniel Meyer]



*Transforming Discipleship*  
978-0-8308-2388-8

# BIO

## AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY



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**Greg Ogden** (D.Min., Fuller Theological Seminary) is executive pastor of discipleship at Christ Church of Oak Brook in Oak Brook, Illinois. Previously he was academic director of the doctor of ministry program and associate professor of lay equipping and discipleship at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California.

A pastor for twenty-three years with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), he also served for nine years as senior pastor of Saratoga Federated Church in Saratoga, California. While there, he developed a discipleship program used by over fifteen thousand people that resulted in his book *Discipleship Essentials*. Ogden has also written *The New Reformation: Returning the Ministry to the People of God* (rereleased in 2003 as *Unfinished Business*).