

LOVING JESUS

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John 14:15, 21-24

1. One of the problems that faces the church in America today is the disparity between profession and performance.
2. Sadly, many who profess to know and love the Lord Jesus live lives that contradict what is professed.
3. This problem has been around since the infancy of the church but not in its current scope. James 4:2-4
“You do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. 4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”
4. In Mark 12:28-30 we have Jesus’ response to a question that was directed to Him.
28 One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, "What commandment is the foremost of all?" 29 Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; 30 AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.'”
5. But He also made it clear that there is a direct correlation between loving God and obeying God. John 14:31
31 but **so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me.** Get up, let us go from here.
6. **We know that Jesus loved the Father because He did what His Father commanded Him to do.**
7. In the passage we are looking at today Jesus declared that what was true about Him and the Father was true of Him and His followers.
NOTE: We refer to these chapters as the Upper Room Discourse but John 14:31 and 18:1 seem to indicate that some of this teaching took place in another location or as they walked along as a group.
8. Jesus, in defining true discipleship, declared that our love for Him is to exceed all other loves. Luke 14:26
Now large crowds were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, 26 "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.”
9. It is important to note that our obedience is to be the outgrowth of our love for Jesus, because it is possible to love the things of Christ without actually loving Him.
Rev 2:1-5
"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this: 2' I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and

you found them to be false; 3 and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. 4 **'But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.** 5 'Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place — unless you repent.”

I. If we really know and love Jesus our life is going to be characterized by obedience.

A. “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments...He who has my commandments and keeps (to attend to carefully, to observe) them, he it is who loves Me...” 15, 21

B. “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word...” 23

C. “He who does not love Me does not keep My words...” 24

D. The love of God and love for God is active; it is not just an emotion. John 3:16
“For God so loved the world, that He gave (acted) His only begotten Son (sacrificially), that whoever believes in Him should not perish (for the benefit of others), but have eternal life.”

NOTE: It is important to note that the lost are objects of God’s redemptive love even while the wrath of God rests on them.

1. John 3:36

36 "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

2. Rom 5:7-8

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

E. Those who truly love Jesus demonstrate that love by active and ongoing obedience.

II. If we really know and love Jesus we are going to grow in our knowledge and understanding of Him.

A. “I will...**disclose** myself to Him.” 21

1. To manifest, to exhibit to view.

2. To show oneself, to come to view, to appear, to be manifest.

3. To indicate, to disclose, to declare, to make known.

B. As we lovingly obey Jesus He reveals or discloses Himself to us.

C. His will, His plan, His power, His truth and His person become increasingly clear to us.

D. Jesus becomes a greater and greater reality to us, and we begin to experience what Jesus meant when He told the disciples that it was to their advantage that He go away.

III. If we really know and love Jesus we will enjoy close fellowship with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

A. “He who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him...” 21

B. “...My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make our **abode** with him.” 23

1. A staying, an abiding, a dwelling, an abode.

2. To make one’s abode.

3. Metaphorically, used of God (the Holy Spirit) who indwells believers.

C. We cannot be grieving, quenching, and insulting the Holy Spirit through our disobedience and expect to experience intimate fellowship with God at the same time.

APPLICATION

1. No ongoing love relationship can flourish without a full commitment to that relationship by both parties.
2. Both parties must genuinely love each other with a selfless rather than a self-serving love.
3. By this I mean that the love exhibited is person-centered rather than performance-centered.
4. Christ's love for us cannot be questioned because He loved us and died for us prior to any performance on our part.
5. We are enabled to love Christ because He first loved us, but our love for Him should be self-less rather than selfish.
6. We will love and live for Him who died for us.
7. Unfortunately many professing Christians have embraced a product rather than the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.
8. They have responded to a sales pitch rather than the Gospel being applied to their minds and hearts by the Holy Spirit.
9. The foundational truth here is, **no love, no life.**