

WHY WE SHOULD LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD

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Ephesians 2:1-10

1. It bothers me that so many people profess to be Christians while not demonstrating any real love for the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Even faithful Christians are sometimes faithful for the wrong reasons.

a. They are faithful because they think it obligates God to bless them.

b. They are faithful because they love the things of Christ rather than Christ Himself.

NOTE: According to the Lord Jesus this was true of the church at Ephesus. 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."

3. Our love for the Lord should be real, passionate and personal and it should exceed all other loves. Luke 14:26

"If anyone come 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."

4. This passage suggests three of the many reasons why we should love and serve God.

a. Because of our past.

b. Because of our present.

c. Because of our future.

I. Because of our past. 1-3

A. These verses describe the past condition of every believer and the present condition of everyone else.

1. Dead in trespasses and sins.

a. We are sinners by birth, nature, and choice.

b. People commit sin because they are sinful.

Jesus said, "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, and slanders." Matthew 15:19

c. From a human perspective all are not equally corrupt and wicked, but all are equally dead-dead is dead.

d. From God's perspective all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 5:23 (Every person who has yet to bow his or her knee and confess that Jesus Christ is both Savior and Lord is living in rebellion against God.)

2. Walking according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air.
 - a. To walk according to the course of this world is to embrace humanism, materialism, and pleasure. Humanism enthrones man, materialism enthrones things, and pleasure enthrones fleshly appetites and desires.
 - b. To walk according to the course of this world is to follow the leadership and design of Satan who wants people to do, think, and believe evil things-especially against and about God.
 3. Ruled by the lust of the flesh which leads to indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind. Sinful desires lead to sinful choices.
 4. By nature the children of wrath-subject to and fully deserving to experience the judgment and wrath of God.
- B. "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, (and under the wrath of God) Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

II. Because of our present. 4-6, 8-10

- A. While we were dead in, and because of, our transgressions, God made us alive together in Christ.
- B. He made us alive because:
 1. He is rich in mercy-**doesn't give us what we deserve.**
 2. He is merciful because of His great love with which He loved us.

NOTE: This speaks of God's redemptive love and does not refer to God's acceptance of those who have not responded to the gospel.
- C. He made us alive through the manifestation of His grace-**giving us what we don't deserve.**
 1. Our salvation is by grace through faith and comes to us as a gift from God.
 2. Someone who is dead has no power to make himself alive.
 3. We had nothing to do with our being saved.

NOTE: God's saving grace requires a response, but it is God who is the enabling force behind our response.
- D. He raised us up with Jesus, and seated us with Jesus in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus.
 1. "God...has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. For he delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son." Colossians 1:12-13
 2. We are no longer walking according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, rather we are seated forever in a new realm with a new Master.
- E. God delivered us from futility to fruitfulness. 10

III. Because of our future. 7

- A. God made us alive "in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus."
- B. We are to be like Jesus, "who for the joy set before Him endured the cross." Hebrews 12:2

C. Quoting Isaiah Paul wrote, “Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered into the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him.” I Corinthians 2:9

D. In Romans 8:18 Paul declared, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

APPLICATION

1. Every human being is either dead in their trespasses and sins or alive in and through Jesus Christ.

2. If you claim to be spiritually alive does your life support that claim?

NOTE: We are Christ’s witnesses, and our lives are to give testimony to the fact that He is not only our Savior and Lord but also an Agent of radical change. 2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.”

3. Praise God that in Jesus Christ we will never have to confront our past, but we can live for God in the present with the full assurance of a future beyond anything that we can imagine.