

Love the Lord

John 14:21

Introduction

1. John 14:21: “*He who has My Commandments and keeps them, it is He who loves Me.*”
2. Love for the Lord is one of the most important elements in Christian life.
3. Though this is important, it is easy to misunderstand what it means because the world’s definition of love is very different than God’s.
4. So that we may love God the way He wants to be love, He instructs us through the Scriptures.

Discussion

I. Love for the Lord Defined:

1. Love for the Lord was just as essential in the O.T. as it is in the N.T.
2. Love is a command—contrary to the world’s understanding of love.
3. It is something that can and must be learned (Titus 2:4).
4. Ps. 5:11: The love that is commanded is not emotionalism, but it does result in true and eternal joy.

B. Love Obeys all of God’s commands

1. John 14:15: “*If you love me, keep My Commandments.*” –not first time mentioned.
2. Ex. 20:6: God shows mercy to those who love Him and keep His commandments
3. Deut. 11:1: Love, keep charge, statutes, judgments, and commandments.
4. Similar statements made throughout the Scriptures.
5. Why is obedience so closely linked to loving the Lord?

C. Love Walks in the Ways of the Lord

1. Deut. 11:22: To love the Lord your God to walk in His ways.
2. God is righteousness, therefore the way He conducts Himself is in righteousness.
3. His ways are His manner of conduct, the standard by which He walks.
4. Those who love the Lord do so because of who and what He is, and they seek to be like Him in Character—to make His ways their ways.
5. This is what Jesus taught us in the Sermon on the Mount, saying, “*Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect*” (Matt. 5:48).
6. How do we learn to walk in the ways of God?

D. Love Writes God’s Law In Our Hearts: Deut. 6:5-9; Heb. 8:10:

1. Rom. 6:17: The word of God is in our hearts when we obey the gospel.
2. Rom. 12:2: From that point on, as the knowledge of God’s word grows in our hearts, we are transformed by it, proving in our bodies the perfect will of God.
3. When this is the case, then our hearts desire will be for the word of God—to learn it, to do it, and to make it a part of who we are.
4. Matt. 4:4: It will be our sustenance; true fulfillment in this life.
5. Ps. 119:6-20, 33-37: Our delight will be in the law of the Lord.

E. Love for God draws us to His word to keep His commands. When this is the case...

1. We will hate evil: Ps. 97:10; Amos 5:15

- a. To love God is to be devoted to His ways.
 - b. Evil is anything that is contrary to God and His ways.
 - c. We know we love God when we abhor anything that is contrary to God.
 - d. When we strive to justify things that God does not love, then the love of God is not in us.
2. We will glorify God with our very being:
 - a. Ps. 40:16: We will say with our lips, “*The Lord be magnified!*”
 - b. 1 Cor. 6:20: But more than that, we will glorify the Lord with our bodies.
 - c. Matt. 5:16: Thus our lights will shine on earth to the glory of God

II. Circumcision Of The Heart: Loving The Lord With Our All

- A. Deut. 10:14-17: Those who had true love for the Lord had circumcised hearts.
- B. Gen. 17:11-13: Circumcision of the flesh in the O.T. was sign of Israel’s covenant relationship with God.
 1. The purpose for the covenant was to have special relationship with God—to be His special people, completely devoted to Him.
 2. Transversely, the richness of God’s blessings would be upon those who have a covenant relationship with them.
 3. Circumcision of the flesh was merely the outward sign of that covenant; **it was a continual reminder of the Israelite’s relationship with God.**
- C. Rom. 2:29: Those who love the Lord and belong to Him are circumcised in their hearts.
 1. As in the Old Testament, we have a continual reminder that we belong to God, but it is not a fleshly mark.
 2. The sign of our covenant—the continual reminder of our relationship with God—is our love for God!
 3. Our circumcision is a heart that is completely devoted to God!
 - a. A heart that is sanctified for His service—obey from the heart (Rom. 6:17).
 - b. Belonging to Him and no other—only serve one master (Luke 16:13).
 - c. Our love for Him takes preeminence above all else—(Matt 10:37-39).
- D. Such a relationship begins when we obey the gospel (Gal. 3:26-27; 4:6).

III. The Benefits of Loving the Lord

- A. John 14:21-23: “*We will make our home with him.*”
 1. Jesus promised that He would manifest Himself to us.
 2. In further explanation He said that He and the Father would make their home with us.
 3. What did He mean by this?
- B. The life which Christ lived is manifest in us:
 1. The law of God is the description of His character for man to follow.
 2. In the New Testament we have the “*mind of Christ*” (1 Cor. 2:16).
 3. When we write His law on our hearts we are making the character of God’s heart the character of our heart.
 4. When we walk in all the ways of the Lord, then the character of God not only fills our hearts, but our actions as well.
 5. Gal. 2:20: Thus, like Paul, we will be able to say that the Lord lives in us.

- C. Such a relationship is the ultimate purpose in this life.
1. Ps. 5:11: “*Let those who love Your name be joyful in You.*”
 2. We were created to have this relationship with God!
 3. Therefore, it makes sense that this is the only way we are able to find true joy.
 4. Ps. 18:1-3: When we love the Lord then we gain strength through Him.
 5. Why? Because this is the way it was meant to be!

Conclusion

1. Do you love the Lord?
2. We know whether or not we love the Lord, for Jesus said, “*He who does not love Me does not keep My words*” (John 14:23).
3. Loving the Lord involves so much more than just saying the words. It means showing that love in every aspect of our lives.
4. The blood of Christ is able to cleanse and sanctify those who love Him because they, in turn have given themselves to Him.
 - a. Have you given yourself to the Lord?
 - b. Do you gladly give yourselves to His service?
 - c. Are you actively and urgently fleeing the sin that separates you from God?
 - d. Are you seeking ways to bear fruit unto God so that Jesus Christ can be seen in you?
5. Do not sell yourself short. Draw near to God, love Him with your entire being, and you will find true and eternal joy through Him.

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