

Loving God

Knowing and Loving God - Session One

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The Importance of Love

The greatest thing that we can give to God is our love.

(1 Corinthians 13:13, NKJV) And now abides faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

As for our relationship with Jesus, it is important to love Him. Faith cannot work unless it be associated with love. Our love to God produces the desire to do His will. We cannot properly do His will until we do it with love. Faith works by love, love to God and love to our brethren. This is the basis for true Christianity.

(Galatians 5:6, NKJV) For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision avails any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which works by love.

Love is our foundation, the ground where we put our roots. Without love we will not be grounded in truth. Without love we will not be able to grow in faith. Without love we will not be able to grow to become the mature Christians that Christ want us to be.

(Ephesians 3:17) That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love.

Love binds everything together. (Colossians 3:14) And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

God wants our love. Without love there is no faith, and without faith there is no grace.

The Greatest Commandment

We see that love is a requirement in the Old Testament and also in the New Testament.

(Deuteronomy 6:5) And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

(Deuteronomy 10:12) And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

(Mark 12:30) And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

(2 Thessalonians 3:5) And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.

(Jude 21) Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Love binds us together with God. Love is the greatest commandment because if we really love God then we will want to follow all of the other commandments. Without love we will never be able to properly serve God. Love will be our motivating force to do God's will.

Circumcision of the Heart

God wants our hearts. He wants us to love Him with all of our hearts. When we do this then our praise will come from God. We have to come to a decision in our life, do we want to please people or do we want to please God?

(Romans 2:29) But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

(Deuteronomy 30:6) And the Lord thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.

God wants our heart because the heart is the center of our life. Therefore, we are to protect it. (Proverbs 4:23) Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

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God wants our heart because it determines our true character. God wants us to truly be with Him. (Proverbs 23:7, NKJV) For as he thinks in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, says he to you; but his heart is not with you.

God wants our heart because it is the source of faith. (Romans 10:10) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Why Love God?

We love God because of His great love towards us.

(Jeremiah 31:3) The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

(Romans 5:8) But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

(Ephesians 2:4) But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us.

(1 John 4:19) We love him, because he first loved us.

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(Luke 17:12-19) And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood far off: (13) And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. (14) And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go show yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. (15) And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, (16) And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. (17) And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? (18) There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. (19) And he said unto him, Arise, go your way: your faith has made you whole.

Ten lepers were healed, but only one returned to thank and worship Jesus. Nine loved their healing, one loved Jesus. Some love God for what He does for them, others love Him for who He is. (1 John 4:8, NKJV) He that loves not knows not God; for God is love.