

# How Much Do You Love God?

## Introduction:

1. Self-examination is one of the most important parts of the Christian life, and this sermon is for that, just as Joshua exhorted the church before his death to take heed to their love of God (Joshua 23:11).
2. The knowledge of God and His ways is a gift, and our character is discovered by our response to it, so after hearing for six sermons about God's sovereignty in revealing truth, we should respond in love.
3. There is a great range in the love of God by those who profess to be Christians, from those who love Him far above anything else to those who love the things of earth more (Phil 3:18-19; II Tim 4:10).
4. By nature, we do not love God at all (Romans 1:30), for we are at enmity with Him (Romans 8:7).
5. And there is a great threat against us in these perilous times of loving pleasures more (II Tim 3:4).
6. Let us be as bold as Peter, but keep our profession, rather than prove otherwise (Mat 26:33; Jn 21:15).
7. God is love, so we show our greatest evidence of knowing Him by love in both directions (I Jn 4:8).

## What Does It Mean to Love God?

- A. The love of God and the fear of God, both described in the Bible, are practically identical; these two concepts are often repeated as commands and conditions in both testaments.
- B. Loving God is doing all we can in thought, word, and deed to give Him glory and happiness.
- C. Loving God is delighting in Him as the object of your pleasure and pursuit above all others, just as we choose spouses from the entire population of the opposite sex to delight in them.
- D. Loving God is seeking His great pleasure by your eager faithfulness to please Him in all things, just as we want to be creative and constant in pleasing spouses by doing their desires.
- E. Consider some verses about pleasing God and being pleased by Him, the two preceding concepts that help define loving God (Gen 39:9; Job 22:21; Ps 37:4; 44:8; 97:10; 104:34; Jer 9:23-24; Matt 5:48; 6:24; Rom 12:1-2; I Cor 10:31).
- F. The Lord Himself often compares our love for Him to our love of a lover, or spouse, in both testaments, which gives us considerable understanding of the nature of the relationship.
  - a. We want to learn everything we can about the other in order to please them in all things.
  - b. We are very perceptive and flexible to receive correction in order to please in all things.
  - c. We let nothing get in the way of spending as much time, effort, and expense as desired.
  - d. Every word that is exchanged is precious indeed and delighted in and remembered often.
  - e. Our waking actions and our sleeping thoughts are centered and focused on this person.
  - f. These descriptions of love could be multiplied indefinitely ... *do you love God this way?*
- G. Loving God is loving His words: they reveal Him (Job 23:12; Ps 19:10; 119:111; Jer 15:16).
- H. Loving God is loving His works, for they reveal His accomplishments (Ps 77:10-14; 143:5).
- I. Loving God is loving His character, for they are His great features (Jer 9:23-24; Micah 7:18).
- J. Loving God is loving His kingdom, for it is His worship on the earth (Ps 84:10; Heb 12:28).
- K. Loving God is loving His people; you cannot love Him without loving them (I John 4:20-21).
- L. Loving God is loving prayer, for it is the intimate communion of fellowship (Luke 6:12).
- M. Loving God is loving His rules, for doing His will proves our love (John 14:15,23-24; 15:10).

## How Important Is It to Love God?

- A. He created us for His own pleasure: we fulfill our destiny by loving Him (Pr 16:4; Rev 4:11).
- B. We should love God above all else for the simple fact He is an infinitely perfect object for love, and this is true no matter how you consider Him in His nature, words, or works.
- C. We should love God greatly for the simple facts He created us from nothing and gave us life.

- D. We should love God for the natural kindness and mercy He bestows (Matt 5:45; Acts 14:17).
- E. We should love God for the love He has for us by adopting us as sons (Gal 4:6; I John 4:19).
- F. We should love God for sending His only begotten Son to die for us vile sinners (I Jn 4:10).
- G. We should love God for faithfully forgiving frequent sins in spite of the above (Psalm 130:4).
- H. We should love God for all He has in store for His children in eternal blessings (II Tim 4:8).
- I. Loving God was commanded under the Old Testament (Deut 6:4-5; 10:12; 30:6,15-16,20).
- J. Jesus repeated and emphasized this commandment under the New Testament (Mat 22:36-38).
- K. He is Jealous; He is offended by flirting with other things, and He punishes for it (James 4:4).
- L. Jesus condemned the Pharisees for neglecting their love of God for other duties (Luk 11:42).
- M. And He warned how abounding iniquity, like our generation, would freeze love (Matt 24:12).
- N. Jesus Christ's apostles emphasized our need to continue loving Him (I John 2:15; Jude 1:21).
- O. The Lord Jesus Christ condemned the church at Ephesus for losing their first love (Re 2:1-5).
- P. The Lord Jesus Christ condemned the church at Laodicea for being lukewarm (Rev 3:14-16).
- Q. The benefits of loving God are enormous, though secondary (Ex 20:6; Ps 37:4; 119:132; 145:20; Prov 8:17,21; John 14:23; Rom 8:28; I Cor 8:3).
- R. A human being will never be as happy as they can be until they are maximizing love for God.

### **How Much Did Others Love God?**

- A. Does your love compare well with the martyrs? Or do they seem as extreme fanatics to you?
- B. Do you love God like Enoch, so that you walk with Him closer than other men (Heb 11:5)?
- C. Do you love God enough to forsake pleasure or riches for Christ's reproach (Heb 11:24-26)?
- D. Do you love the presence of God so much that you can hardly leave His worship (Ex 33:11)?
- E. Do you love God enough to replace all relationships with totally new ones (Ruth 1:16-18)?
- F. Do you love God similar to David's ambition to do all he could (II Sam 6:19; I Chron 29:2)?
- G. Do you love God enough to take your only begotten son like Isaac and burn him (Ge 22:12)?
- H. A sinful woman loved Jesus very much for His forgiveness of her many sins (Luke 7:36-50).
- I. Paul loved and served God with all His might over and above others, and it is this humble but honest ambition to excel for Jesus Christ that should drive us (I Cor 15:10; Phil 3:7-14).

### **How Much Do You Love God?**

- A. Would you simplify your life by altering your lifestyle to please God more (Luke 10:38-42)?
- B. Do you love God enough to give up your spouse for Him (Luke 14:26; II Samuel 6:22)?
- C. Do you love God enough to love your spouse His way for Him (Col 3:18-19; Pro 5:19; etc.)?
- D. Do you love God enough to alter your marriage properly to love Him more (I Cor 7:29-32)?
- E. Do you love God enough to consider the single life for Him (I Cor 7:32-35; Matt 19:10-12)?
- F. Do you love God enough to marry as great a lover of God as possible (I Cor 7:39; 11:11)?
- G. Do you love God enough to reject sins in your life unconditionally, even favorites (He 12:1)?
- H. Do you love God enough to remove the weights that slow your running for Him (Heb 12:1)?
- I. Do you love God enough to restore every relationship and esteem others better (Phil 2:1-4)?
- J. Do you love God enough to read His word every day or more often with delight (Ps 138:2)?
- K. Do you love God enough to give up anything or everything to buy His field (Matt 13:44-46)?
- L. How much do you hate the world and its attitudes and lifestyle, since God does (I Jn 2:15)?
- M. Do you love God enough to cut off or pluck out precious things of your life (Matt 5:29-30)?
- N. Or are you as the rich, young ruler who could not give up his favorite thing (Matt 19:21-22)?
- O. Would you give up one desired football game just to spend time with Him or His kingdom?
- P. Would you accept a "B" in class instead of an "A" for more time with Him or His kingdom?

- Q. Would you accept an ordinary check and pass up overtime pay to make sure you meet Him?
- R. Would you hurry home from work and not golf with the boys in order to read the Bible?
- S. Would you go to bed earlier and set your alarm a little earlier in order to read in the morning?
- T. Would you return home a few hours earlier than necessary in order to be at Sunday services?
- U. Would you allow a little crabgrass in your lawn in order to spend more time in prayer?
- V. Do you love God enough to always seek His kingdom first over other needs (Matthew 6:33)?
- W. Do you love God enough to rejoice with other great lovers of God (Phil 2:29; II John 1:1-4)?
- X. Do you love God enough to consider praying three times a day to be reasonable (Ps 55:17)?
- Y. Do you crave God's presence like David did (Psalm 42:1-2; 51:11; 63:1-2; 73:25-26; 84:10)?
- Z. Do you get your greatest joy from God (Ps 4:7; 16:11; 111:2; 104:34; Habakkuk 3:17-19)?
- A. Do you want to celebrate understanding His words, or is it not precious enough (Neh 8:12)?
- B. Do you grieve over losing fellowship, if you know what it is (Psalm 51:8-12; 102:1-11)?
- C. Do you have total confidence at meeting Him in judgment due to great love (I John 4:16-19)?
- D. Do you share your knowledge of Him like a great treasure (Ps 34:2; 66:16; Mark 5:18-20)?
- E. Do you have intimacy with Him by prayer and examination (Psalm 139:23-24; Matt 6:6)?
- F. Do you love His children who show His grace in their lives (Ps 119:63; I John 4:20-21; 5:1)?
- G. Is your gladness at assembling with saints to worship Him obvious (Ps 84:1-2,10; 122:1)?
- H. If you are a child, do you love God enough to fully obey and honor your parents (Eph 6:1-3)?
- I. Do you love God enough to run to Him for mercy whenever you are convicted of a fault?

### **How Can You Love God More?**

- A. If we love Him less than we have in the past or less than we should, we must confess it now!
- B. If we love Him less than others, we need to ask why this is the case, and correct it now!
- C. Do you know you loved God more in the past? Then be grieved and fearful, for the Lord of glory is measuring your loss of love (Rev 2:5). ***Remember, repent, and do the first works.***
- D. What else does God need to do to elicit your love (Is 5:4)? Or is the problem with you only?
- E. Can you read His word more? Of course! Will you read His word more this coming week?
- F. Can you pray more? Of course! Will you pray more as a true saint of God this coming week?
- G. Can you listen to His favorite songs more? Of course! Will you listen to His favorite songs?
- H. Will you pray for greater love for God and His things, since it is something we can ask for (II Thess 3:5; Deut 30:6; I Chron 29:18; Psalm 119:36; 86:11)?
- I. Simplify your life; cut out carnal inputs; replace with spiritual inputs; set your love on Him!
- J. Get around those who love Him most, for their effect on you will far exceed that of others.

### **Conclusion:**

1. Most hearers only hear. Some will initially be convicted, but do nothing. A few will love Him more.
2. Our infinite and glorious God will bring pressure and pain into our lives, if we neglect this sermon.
3. It is our duty and privilege to promote loving God with one another (Heb 10:24; Ps 34:2).

### **For Further Study:**

1. The sermon, "He Is Altogether Lovely," ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/sermons/pdf/he-is-altogether-lovely.pdf>.
2. The sermon, "World's Greatest Lover," ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/sermons/pdf/worlds-greatest-lover.pdf>.
3. The sermon, "Exceeding Magnifical," ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/sermons/pdf/exceeding-magnifical.pdf>.
4. The sermon, "He Deserves Better," ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/sermons/pdf/he-deserves-better-than-that.pdf>.
5. The sermon, "Delight in the Lord," ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/sermons/pdf/delight-in-the-lord.pdf>.
6. The sermon, "Love Constrains," ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/sermons/pdf/love-of-christ-constraineth-us.pdf>.
7. The sermon, "Lovest Thou Me."
8. The sermon, "The Two Great Commandments."