

## OUR LOVE FOR GOD

Text: John 14:21

INTRO: Many sermons have been preached about God's love for us. Mention has often been made of our need to love God. This lesson is more to the point on the subject of our love for God.

### I. THE IMPORTANCE OF LOVING GOD.

#### A. The crown of life.

Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. (James 1:12).

#### B. The kingdom is theirs.

Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith & heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? (James 2:5).

#### C. All things work for their good.

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. (Rom. 8:28)

#### D. It is the greatest of all God's commands.

READ MATTHEW 22:36-37

### II. THE DANGER THAT WE MIGHT CEASE LOVING GOD.

#### A. The Ephesians did. Rev. 2:4 (at least subsided)

#### B. Jesus foretold that the love of many would grow cold.

And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. (Matthew 24:12).

#### C. No external power can destroy our love for God.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
(Rom. 8:35-39)

1. The evils Paul writes about are things that attack us from outside ourselves, vs. 35, 38, 39
2. The only thing that can cause us to quit loving God is sin in our own hearts. If ever we quit loving Him, it will be an inside job.

### III. MATTERS IN WHICH WE MAY GAUGE OUR LOVE FOR HIM.

#### A. Keeping His commandments.

"If you love Me, keep My commandments... He who has My commandments & keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, & I will love him and manifest Myself to him..." Jesus answered & said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; & My Father will love him, & We will come to him & make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; & the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me." (John 14:15. 21. 23-24).

NOTE: Occasional slips do not negate our love, but they do remind us that our love falls far short of perfection. I loved my mother. I didn't always do what she asked of me. But I usually obeyed her, and I nearly always felt bad when I didn't obey her. I was sometimes disappointed that she didn't fulfill everything I asked of her. I sometimes got angry when our wills clashed. But I never stopped loving her. In fact, I loved her more than I realized. If I had another chance, I'd do a better job of showing it. I suspect our love for God is much like this. Our occasional slips tell us that we need

to remind our-selves how much God loves us, how many reasons we have for loving Him, and how we need to nourish & build our relationship with Him.

B. Loving His church.

1. Christ loved the church & gave Himself for it. He planned it, built it, saved it, died for it.  
MT 16:18; Acts 20:28; Eph 5:25

2. We too must love & support His church.  
Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus. (Phil. 2:5).

a. We must support it with our attendance,  
Not forsaking the assembling of our-selves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. (Heb. 10:25).

I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad & rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.(Psa. 9:1-2).

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the LORD."  
(Psalm 122:1)

b. Our prayers.  
For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers. (Rom 1:9).

c. Our material blessings, 1 Cor 16:1-2.

d. Our influence. Peter wrote of those who were not using their influence correctly:

And many will follow their destructive

ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. (2 Pet 2:2).

C. Loving the souls of mankind.

1. Christ set the pattern. JN 3:16; Rom 5:8
2. He has commanded the same of us.

But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful. (Luke 6:35-36).

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; & everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (1 John 4:7-11).

**CONCLUSION:** Let us constantly remind ourselves of all the reasons we have to love God and nourish our relationship with Him. And don't forget, that love is never threatened by outside forces and problems. The only thing that endangers our love for God is sin within our own hearts & lives.

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, November 3, 1996  
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, October 21, 2001  
Fairfield, PA, October 28, 2001