



Loving God Above All Things

Pastor David Stroup III | Oct. 10, 2021 | www.openyourfaith.com

- As we grow in our knowledge of God, we learn that His unconditional love is liberating.
- God's perfect love for us casts out all fear.

We often hear about God's love for us but this morning I want us to talk about what it REALLY means for us to love God back.

The only way you can love God is to be inspired by His love for you.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. This is the first and most important commandment.

(Matthew 22:37-38)

Love- Gk: [Agapao] *a devoted love and longing for Him, not an inactive love. Finding and placing all interest in; a social and moral love; used of God's love towards man and vice versa.*

Heart- Gk: [Kardia] *what gives you intention, life and purpose; affection; desire; the center of your being.*

Soul- Gk: [Psyche] *mind, will emotions—inner man; used of spirit in some scriptures; the part of you that gives ability to communicate with God; only the born-again person can experience this.*

Strength- Gk: [Ischus] *power connected to “dunamis”; echo—that which keeps on going; to remain spiritually healthy; to continue to gain strength.*

- To believe in Jesus is more than just believing that he was a real person in history or that He was in the Bible.
- To believe in him is to love Him and continue to allow Him to have 1st place over your entire life.
- It means to trust in Him and allow him to have a relationship with you.
- It means to do what He says to do. This will show that you honor your relationship with Him, not that you are trying to gain a relationship through works (self effort).
- To honor the Lord Jesus as Lord isn't to live by works but live by your dedication to Him; it's an intense love that causes you to push away anything or anyone else that would ever try to take Him away from you.

IF you [really] love Me, you will keep (obey; posses) My commands. (John 14:15)

- Some say they love God and they may really have affection for Him but the love He is talking about is a love that causes you to trade your desires for His; to live for Him and do what He has asked of you—no matter what you or anyone else wants.
- A true love for Jesus Christ dominates you and is expressed in your dedication to His righteous standards in the middle of a

God-rejecting world.

- Your love for Jesus is driven by your honor for Him. His wish literally becomes your command. You live to love, honor and bring His will to pass in your life.
- Understand it isn't in the doing (works) that maintains our relationship with God but in honoring Him above all others-even yourself.

Remember, Jesus said, **"If you love Me you will do what I say."**

- What you "feel" for Jesus is not proof that you love Him, it's how you treat Him, it's what you do in lovingly obeying His word that proves that you love Him.
- Resting in grace doesn't mean that there is no action on your part. Your action proves your affection, just as your works prove your faith according to James.
- Since God's love for you is unconditional, your love from Him should be unquestionable.
- To believe in Jesus is to live like Jesus on this earth.
What did He do?

Jesus...

- Loved God above all and put Him first
- Was a soul-winner
- Was a friend of sinners

- Healed the sick
- Cast out devils
- Broke down religious and racial walls
- Had compassion towards the broken
- Didn't just talk the talk, He walked the walk
- Demonstrated authority over the devil
- Did not give into temptation

1. Are you truly believing in Jesus or just saying what others say about Him?
2. How are you proving your love for Jesus?
3. Are you willing to think beyond what you've always thought was enough and give more of your life to Jesus so that the world sees His image when they see you?

Loving Jesus goes beyond a one time prayer of salvation.

REMEMBER: Loving Jesus is about living like Jesus, living for Jesus and putting Him first.