# Loving God; Serving God

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## INTRODUCTION

- It was the greatest of all commandments because it was the basis of everything else we do and are as his children.
- What does it mean to love God? What does it mean to love God with that all-encompassing love? And how does that love show itself?
- I want to talk about how we love. What that love for God, if we love him with all our soul, all our heart and all our mind, what that love will look like and what it will do.

## 1 Love Produces Faithfulness

**1 John 2:15; James 4:4–5**

- One characteristic of love that we see certainly in our relationship with God is that love produces faithfulness.
- Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
- He simply says that love is a choice and it's an exclusive choice. You will either love God or you will love the world.
- Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever, therefore, wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
- He was accusing them of being spiritually unfaithful to God.
- God is a jealous God, and he demands our allegiance and our fidelity.

## 2 Love Will Bring Us Back

**James 4:9; John 21:15**

- Lament and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.
- Love brings us back when we're unfaithful. Love brings us back when we fail to love.
- Love causes us to be faithful. But when we stray, love will bring us back.
- Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me more than these? And he said to him, Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.
- Jesus knew that it was going to be love that would bring Peter back, that it was love that brought Peter back.

## 3 Love Seeks the Best of Its Object

**1 Corinthians 13:5–7; 2 John 6**

- Love will see the best and seek the best of its object.
- If I love God, not in word, but as the scriptures would say in deed, then I will seek the best for God.

- Mary took that costly bottle of ointment and broke it and anointed Jesus, she gave the best.
- Paul loved God. And he did not seek his own.
- This is love, that we walk according to his commandments.
- How do I seek the best of God? I do what he says.

## 4 Love Is the Motivation

**1 Corinthians 13**

- No matter what grand works that we might do, if they are devoid of love, they are empty symbols. God first wants our heart.
- Speaking in the tongues of angels, moving mountains, giving our bodies to be burned, are absolutely meaningless if they are not motivated by love.
- Love is the motivation. And so the challenge today is how can I love God with all my heart, soul, and mind.
- I am not saying that the Bible is not law. It is.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Do you love God? Not a phrase, not a bumper sticker, not something that you just say because you feel like you're supposed to say it. But do you love Him with all your heart, soul, and mind?**

MY NOTES