

Loving GOD

Living a life that is glorifying to God is heavily contingent on whether or not we really have a God we _____, _____, _____, and _____ God.

Greatest command

Deuteronomy 6:5 "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

Matt 22:36-40 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" ³⁷ And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

FIRST, understand what the Bible means by "Loving God"

DEFINITION:

Loving God is the _____ to God and the total _____ of treasuring, desiring, honoring, obeying, submitting, and knowing God all day every day in all things. This desire and pursuit should be the _____ desire of all true believers. Though this love is not based on emotions and feelings, it is NOT a stoic and disciplined love alone either. There will be "spiritual _____" in a true believer coupled with intense and _____ commitment to God alone.¹

¹ This definition is my first rough draft based on my study so far. I KNOW it is inaccurate and incomplete to some small or large extent. The teacher RESERVES THE RIGHT to FIX this definition as many times as necessary in the course of this lesson series ☺

It is to be _____ commitment coupled with _____ obedience

- Deuteronomy 6:5
- Deuteronomy 10:12
- Deuteronomy 11:1
- Deuteronomy 11:13–14
- Deuteronomy 13:1
- Deuteronomy 19:9
- Deuteronomy 30:6
- Deuteronomy 30:15–16
- Daniel 9:4

- John 14:15
- John 14:21
- John 14:23

HOWEVER: not _____

- Isaiah 29:13
- Matthew 15:8–9
 - Matthew 7:22
 - Ezekiel 33:31
 - Matthew 15:8
- MATTHEW 23

NOT _____

1 John 5:1–3
2 Corinthians 9:7
1 Corinthians 13

It is my _____ **vs. it is my** _____

IT is a FIRM _____ **to God (not unlike marriage)**

- Deuteronomy 30:6,16,20
 - Deuteronomy 10:20–21
 - Deuteronomy 11:22
 - Deuteronomy 13:4
 - Deuteronomy 30:20
- Joshua 22:5
- Psalm 31:23

It is a FIRM commitment to His _____ **(not simply the “obeying” but the “embracing”)**

- John 14:15

- John 14:21
- John 14:23-24
- Joshua 22:5

It is a relational and therefore _____ love

God shows emotion in His love for us

- Matthew 9:36
- Matthew 14:14
- Mark 1:41
- Luke 19:41
- 1 Peter 5:7
- Philippians 4:6–7
- Isaiah 43:1–3
- Psalm 55:22

Our love should show emotion _____ ... though differently based on personality

- Psalm 42:1–4
- Psalm 73:25

Loving God is _____ in believers

- Deuteronomy passages
- 1 Corinthians 2:6–9
- Romans 8:26-30
- 1 Corinthians 8:3
- James 1:12
- James 2:5

*It is impossible to know God and not love Him. Loving God is the most important evidence of a right relationship to Him. **Without love for God, made possible by His love for us (1 John 4:19), we can have no right knowledge of Him, because we will not have a right relation to Him. The only ones who know God and are known by Him are those who have a love relationship with Him (John 14:21). Knowledge is important, immensely important. But, as everything else, without love it is nothing.** Loving and being loved by God is everything. Paul here implies that if one is loved by God and loves God, he will also love other believers, whom God loves (1 John 5:1).*²

FINE ... BUT HOW DO I DO IT?

1) It is an **Act** of _____ (on submissive believers)

- Deuteronomy 30:6
- Ezekiel 36:25
- Philippians 2:12-13
- Deuteronomy 30:1–10

² John F. MacArthur Jr., [1 Corinthians](#), MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Press, 1984), 192.

2) It is Based out of Knowing Gods and Actions

- Deut. 6:1-2
- Deuteronomy 6:20 -24
- Deut. 31:12-13

3) It is a Decision of the Will, a Determination, and a every Day

- Deuteronomy 10:12
- Deuteronomy 10:14–16
- Matthew 16:24-25
- 1 Corinthians 9:27
- Philippians 2:12-13
- **Phil 3:7-14**

4) Passion For God is to Reject Passion for

We are halfhearted creatures fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us. Like an ignorant child who goes on making mud pies in the slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased – CS Lewis

- We ARE passionate for _____ ... for our comfort ... for our pleasure ... for our desires. **Ephesians 5:29**
- you can only serve _____ master.- **Matthew 6:24**
- ANYONE who will follow Christ MUST say “NO” to self. We must _____ to self. **Matthew 16:24-25**
- This means your heart is surrendered and your will is _____ and you are “dead” with no will and no drive of your own. **Titus 2:11**
- submitting to God will _____. **Lk. 14:26-33**

5) Love grows from gratitude,

- If we really see how great our _____ is and how much we are truly forgiven
- If we really see how great the _____ God paid for us
- If we really see the _____ and grace and goodness of God
 - **Psalms 116:1**
 - **Deuteronomy 10:14–16**

DEFINITION:

Loving God is the tenacious commitment to God and the resolved pursuit of treasuring, desiring, honoring, obeying, submitting, fearing, adoring, and knowing God all day every day in all things. This desire and pursuit should be the natural direction of all true believers. Though this love is not based on emotions and feelings, it is NOT simply a stoic and disciplined love alone either. There will be “spiritual affections” in a true believer coupled with intense and growing commitment to God alone.

- Honor God
- Glorify God
- Submit to God
- Submit to God’s Word
- DESIRE GOD.
- Treasure God
- Dominating force in my thinking and acting
- Obedience cheerfully (not burdensome)
1 John 5:3 ALSO 2 Cor 9:7
- Passion
- Care and concern

The man who has God for his treasure has all things in One.

*Many ordinary treasures may be denied him,
or if he is allowed to have them,
the enjoyment of them will be so tempered that
they will never be necessary to his happiness.*

*Or if he must see them go, one after one,
he will scarcely feel a sense of loss,
for having the Source of all things
he has in One all satisfaction, all pleasure, all delight.
Whatever he may lose he has actually lost nothing,
for he now has it all in One,
and he has it purely, legitimately and forever.*

*O, God, I have tasted Thy goodness,
and it has both satisfied me and made me thirsty for more.
I am painfully conscious of my need of further grace.
I am ashamed of my lack of desire.
O God, the Triune God,
I want to want Thee;
I long to be filled with longing;
I thirst to be made more thirsty still.
In Jesus’ name. Amen.*

AW Tozer

