

## Do You Love Me?

### Part 4

#### Introduction.

1. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> and final lesson in the series on “Loving God.”
2. This question comes from John 21. (Jn. 21:15-17).

John 21:15 So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, {son} of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My lambs."

John 21:16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, {son} of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Shepherd My sheep."

John 21:17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, {son} of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Tend My sheep."

3. In these verses Jesus asked Peter three times, “Do you love Me?”
4. In this lesson it would be good for us to consider how we would answer the question “Do You Love Me?” if Jesus asked us this soul-searching question.
  - a. We should keep in mind, in answering this question, that to Jesus love is not merely a feeling.
  - b. To say that we love the Lord means living for Him by serving others and by fulfilling the work He has given us to do.
5. Peter had great grief because Jesus asked him 3 times, “**Do you love me?**”
  - a. Peter had denied Jesus 3 times when Christ was arrested (Matt. 26:69-75), and now the Lord is testing the love of Peter by asking him three times “Do you love me?”
  - b. Peter always loved Jesus, but he let fear lead him to deny Jesus.
  - c. Following Jesus’ resurrection and His appearances to Peter and the other apostles Peter is now a changed man.
  - d. He now truly loved Jesus and was willing to die for the Lord.
  - e. Later when threatened by the religious leaders of Israel about preaching Jesus, he boldly replied with these words found in Acts 5. (Acts 5:27-29).

Acts 5:27 When they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. The high priest questioned them, Acts 5:28 saying, "We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man's blood upon us."

Acts 5:29 But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men."

## **Designers Of Christianity**

1. Some people today believe they are “designers of Christianity” - not Christ and the apostles.
2. They think they can make up their own blend of religion, and God will be satisfied.
3. Some think God ought to be happy with anything they offer to Him.
4. It’s almost as if God owes us and He ought to be happy that we give anything to Him in the way of service or worship.
5. Many forget God created us; we did not create Him.
  - a. They forget that we are dependent upon God our Creator, but He is not dependent upon us.
  - b. They forget that Jesus died for our sins to rescue us from sin and spiritual death.
6. Christianity is not something that we design as we like; it is a revealed faith coming from God that we should follow.
  - a. We owe our very soul’s salvation to God.
  - b. Our soul is worth more than the whole world. (Matt. 16:26).

## **Serious About Faith**

1. We need to get serious about our faith and what we owe Jesus.
  - a. The Bible teaches us how to show our love for Jesus. (Jn. 14:15).
  - b. We cannot claim to love God and His Son and rebel against the things they command. (1 Jn. 2:3-5).
  - c. We cannot claim to love God and His Son and then make light of the will of God or claim the Lord does not teach the truth binding on His disciples in all ages.
3. How we love the Lord is by listening to His Word and obeying it.

## **Things We Owe God**

1. **We owe God our worship.**
  - a. If we love the Lord, we will draw close to Him and we will worship Him.
  - b. We cannot claim to love the Lord if we never take time to worship Him.
  - c. The Bible gives us this exhortation pertaining to Christians assembling for worship. (Heb. 10:24-25).
  - d. How can we say to the Lord that we really love Him if we never or seldom worship at church.
  - e. **What does that say to God?**
    - 1) We might be pleased with ourselves, but is God pleased with us?

- 2) We cannot love God on our own terms and never consider what God wants or desires. **What kind of love is that?**
  - 3) Our worship must be real and come from our hearts.
  - 4) God knows our hearts, and there is no way to deceive Him!
  - 5) Some people go to religious concerts and think they have worshiped because they heard something religious.
  - 6) But no matter how moving a concert is, God wants something different from us.
  - 7) **What He wants is your heart, your lips, and your life, not as a spectator but as a participant.**
  - 8) The Lord Jesus said, “But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (Jn. 4:23-24).
  - 9) Genuine worship comes from our loving hearts and it honors and praises the God of heaven.
  - 10) We must never confuse religious entertainment with worship.
  - 11) Genuine love seeks to honor the Lord in the way He wants to be honored.
2. **We own God our loyalty.**
- a. Since we belong to Him, we ought to wear His name and never be ashamed to own Him as our Lord.
  - b. Colossians 3:17 says, “And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”
  - c. As church members, we are the bride of Christ and we ought to proudly wear His name.
  - d. It is hard to understand why some separate the name of Christ from the church.
    - 1) We are blessed to wear the name “Christian” and to be a member of the church that belongs to Jesus Christ.
    - 2) Jesus built the church, He purchased it with his own blood, and He serves as the head of the church. He is the Savior of the church. (Matt. 16:18; Acts 20:28; Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:23).
    - 3) Why would not the church want to wear His name?
    - 4) Why would not a Christian honor Christ in every aspect of his life?
    - 5) The Lord Jesus said, “For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels” (Lk. 9:26).
    - 6) Some folks are simply ashamed to admit they are Christians and that they go to church.

- 7) They would rather stay silent than be ridiculed for their faith by the world.
  - 8) What kind of loyalty is that?
  - 9) The apostle Paul, who died for his faith said, “I have been crucified with Christ; and it’s no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me” (Gal. 2:20).
  - 10) **That is loyalty to Jesus Christ!** We need that kind of loyalty! Jesus needs to live in our hearts and in our lives.
- e. We cannot accept the world’s morals and claim loyalty to Jesus.
- 1) Our lives must show our faith.
  - 2) The Bible says, “Therefore be careful how you walk (that is how you live), not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is” (Eph. 5:15-17).
- f. Unfortunately, some Christians live like they have never heard of Jesus or read the Bible.
- 1) Their mouths are full of ungodly words and their actions show that they do not care about Jesus Christ.
  - 2) 1 John 2:6 says, “the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk (that is to live) in the same manner as Jesus walked (or lived).”
  - 3) If we are to be loyal to Christ, then let us live lives worthy of the name of Christ, and really be “Christians.”
- g. The Lord Jesus said, “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (or money)” (Matt. 6:24).
- 1) Some people live to make money, and nothing else matters. If we make money our god, then Jesus will not be our Lord and God will not be first. This is true of anything that we love more than God and His Son.
  - 2) We cannot faithfully serve two masters.
  - 3) We will decide to follow one and reject the other.
  - 4) If we wear the name of Christ, then we must serve Him.
  - 5) We must not let anything come between us and the Lord.
  - 6) The apostle Paul said, “So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him (that is the Lord). For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil” (2 Cor. 5:9-10).

**h. We owe Jesus our obedience.**

- 1) He is the one and only LORD, and He is our LORD.
- 2) Jesus led the way when it comes to obedience.
- 3) Jesus was willing to sacrifice everything in order to accomplish the will of His Father. Jesus said,  
“For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father” (John 10:17-18).
- 4) Jesus willingly laid down His life for our sakes because He received the commandment from His Father.
- 5) He did not argue with the Father; He did not ask to be excused; and He did not recommend someone else go to the cross.
- 6) He acted because He had authority from the Father to act.
- 7) His Father loved Him for it, and the Father loves us when we serve Him from a pure and loving heart.
- 8) Jesus asks us to obey Him by taking up our cross.
- 9) He knows that He has asked us to sacrifice ourselves in order to obey Him.
- 10) Jesus Himself knows what it is to sacrifice in order to obey.

**i. Obedience is necessary if we are to please God!**

- 1) Jesus once asked, “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?” (Luke 6:46).
- 2) If we want Jesus as our Savior, we must also recognize Him as our Lord.
- 3) If we recognize Him as Lord, then we ought to do whatever He commands, go wherever He sends, and be whatever He asks.

**j. Obedience means we completely submit our will to His will.**

- 1) We do not excuse ourselves from our duty; we do not act on our own without God’s authority.
- 2) We do not argue with God; we serve Him.

**k. Obedience means we will follow Christ and keep His teaching regardless of the cost.**

- 1) We follow Jesus because we trust Him to save us and to lead us in the right path.

2) We will follow Jesus even when we do not understand or know everything.

3) God sees and knows all things. (Prov. 15:3).

4) We will follow Jesus when it is easy and when it is difficult.

**1. We owe Jesus our sacrifice.**

1) Jesus did not lose His life at the cross, but He gave it purposefully. (Jn. 10:18).

2) He gave His head to a crown of thorns; He gave his back to a terrible scourging; He gave his side to a spear; He gave his hands and feet to the nails; He shed his blood for our sins; and He yielded up his spirit to God.

3) Jesus knew what it was to give of Himself.

4) The Bible says, "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:9).

5) Again, 1 Peter 2:24 says, "He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. For by his wounds you have been healed."

6) Jesus made a very personal and very costly sacrifice so that we could have forgiveness and eternal life.

7) Why does all this matter?

8) Because if we love the Lord, we will show our love by our worship, our service, our obedience, and our sacrifice.

9) We will never stop being loyal, but will remain loyal until death.

10) The Father sacrificed His beloved Son so that we might live, but many never give that a second thought.

**Conclusion.**

1. Each of us need to consider the ultimate sacrifice that Christ made on our behalf.

2. We need to totally commit our lives to Him to serve Him acceptably.

3. God loves us and He wants each of us to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

4. May all of us completely surrender to Him and encourage others to do the same.

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