

We Are Here To Love God
Mark 12:28-34
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Series Introduction

1. Why are we here?

- a. We are here to love God with every aspect of our lives and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

- b. Our Christian growth can be measured by how we are growing in these two areas—loving God and loving others.

2. Our love for God glorifies God.

- a. To glorify God is to exalt, to magnify and to show the infinite worthiness of God. We can glorify God by loving Him with our entire being, because what we love we exalt, worship, magnify and honor.

- b. Behind our motivation to obey and to serve God should be a deep affection and love for God.

3. Before we can love God, we must be reconciled to God.

- a. It is not enough to know about God or to do our best to love God. We must believe in and trust in His Son and be reconciled to Him. On that ground we grow in knowledge of and love for God. (See Rom. 5:6-8 and 1 John 4:19)

Three Aspects of Our love for God:

1. It is all encompassing.

- a. We are to “love the Lord your God with *all* your heart and with *all* your soul and with *all* your minds and with *all* your strength.” (v. 30, emphasis added)

- b. We are moving in the right direction in our Christian life if we are growing in loving God in every part of our lives. Not just our Sunday mornings, but also our Sunday afternoons. Not just when we’re reading our Bible, but when we’re daydreaming. Not just when we’re with our Christian friends, but when we are with unbelieving friends. Not only when people are watching, but when we are by ourselves and only God knows our thoughts and motives.

2. It is relational.

- a. Love involves a relationship. The Lord could have commanded us to praise the Lord with all our mind or obey the Lord with all our strength or revere the Lord with all our hearts. None of these would be wrong. But they would be things we could do from a distance, without passion or feeling. Instead the Lord called us to a passionate, affectionate relationship of love with Himself.

- b. The heart of Christianity is not a list of dos and don'ts. It is not the accomplishment of activities, like attending church or reading our Bibles or serving God's people. It is a relationship.
- c. Our motive in all our Christian activity must be growing in our love for the living God. For example, we should study His Word and pray because we love Him and want to fellowship with Him and talk with our Father and hear Him speak to us.

3. It is measurable.

- a. The love and passion of our heart and soul cannot be hidden. The thoughts and meditations of our mind will shape and direct the outward choices and decisions we make—choices that can be observed by God and by others.

Fellowship Starters

1. Are there any parts of your life that you have segmented into the spiritual and the non-spiritual, into God's part and my part? How would you define or describe the repentance required to bring every aspect of your life under Jesus' rule?
2. In order to express your love for God, are there any areas of your life that you need to stop and repent of?
3. Where have you reduced your Christian life to a list of activities? How can you cry out to the Holy Spirit to fan into flame fresh affection and love for the Lord?
4. Where have you grown cold in your love for God? Where have you turned from your first love? How can Jesus become your greatest treasure and dearest friend?
5. If you asked those closest to you, what would they say you are most passionate about? How can you grow to be a passionate lover of God?