

# A Look in the Mirror – 5

## "Loving Jesus"

*Why would Jesus want my love? I am hypocritical, inconsistent, weak, and an embarrassment to Him. I make mistakes, feel guilt, commit sin, and am very unfaithful. Oh, did I mention ungrateful. I hurt Him with my attitudes, thoughts, and words. I ignore His warnings, neglect His word (The Bible), and go days without talking to Him.*

1. Off the top of your head, are there any verses in the Bible where:
  - a. Jesus tells or **commands** us to love Him? \_Yes \_No
  - b. God the Father **commands** us to love Him? \_Yes \_No
2. Here's another one. How does **a person** show love to God? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How do **YOU** prove to God that you love Him? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*I find this last question quite convicting. Do I go out of my way to show love to the most important person in my life? I must selfishly say, "No". "Lord, I am sorry".*

### LET'S START WITH THE BASICS.

*May I borrow from author, Dr. Gary Chapman, who wrote The Five Love Languages. **What is the act or attitude that proves someone loves you? (That is the question.)***

4. If someone loves you, what must they do to prove it (the most important one)?  
You have five choices. They are all important & you probably like them all. Put a "5" by the strongest one & then rank the rest with "4", "3", "2", "1".
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ Words of Affirmation (Focus on them words, written or spoken)
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ Quality Time (Focus on them without interruption)
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ Physical Touch (This is closeness, not necessarily sexual)
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ Acts of Service (Doing simple things that will help or please)
  - e. \_\_\_\_\_ Receiving Gifts (Some tangible symbol of your love)

*I took a "Love Languages" quiz recently. The results told me that my top three "love languages" were:*

- 1) Quality Time    2) Physical Touch    3) Words of affirmation

*If you want see your preferred love languages, google - 5lovelanguages.com and check it out.*

5. Look up the following verses. Do you think God is commanding us to love Him?

a. Matthew 22:37 \_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No

b. Mark 12:30 \_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No

c. Luke 10:27 \_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No

*These 3 verses probably are talking about the same event. Interesting that three gospel writers mention. We will discuss John's Gospel later.*

d. Deuteronomy 6:5 \_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No

e. Deuteronomy 11:1 \_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No

f. Deuteronomy 11:13 \_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No

g. Deuteronomy 11:22 \_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No

h. Deuteronomy 30:16 \_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No

i. Deuteronomy 30:20 \_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No

j. Joshua 22:5 \_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No

*Why are there so many references in Deuteronomy to loving God?*

*The Jews during this time in history were a new generation; the older folks had died off. They had only heard the history of God's love.*

*God wanted them to love Him, not because they read or heard it somewhere, but because they WANTED TO.*

**Consider this thought:**

- In or near every one of these verses, this word appears: **COMMANDMENT** (I rest my case.)

6. Is it safe to assume that since we are commanded to love God in the Bible, that we must not do a good job loving God? \_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No

7. Does God demand our love because He is lonely & rejected by men? \_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No

8. God needs our love to make His existence have purpose. \_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No

9. God wants a relationship with us. His character is love; He wants our relationship to be the best. A true relationship needs love going both ways. \_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No

10. God made us in His image & design. There's a hole in us that only the "God of Love" can fill. To fulfill our purpose, love must be going both ways. \_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No

11. Love is risky for us. He loved us first. That gives us the foundation for loving, the confidence that it will be accepted, and the security that it's real. \_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No

***When God tells us to love Him, it isn't to fill His need; He has no need. It is to complete our design & purpose. He knows how we work; He knows what we need. Don't forget; we are stubborn, self-centered, sinful people. Sometimes, we need a "tough love" command to get us on track.***

12. What are the motives for loving God? Match the columns.

a. Psalm 18:1 \_\_\_\_\_ I love God because He is strength & protection.

b. Psalm 31:23 \_\_\_\_\_ I love God because He hears me.

c. Ephesians 6:24 \_\_\_\_\_ I love God all the believers are doing it.

d. Psalm 116:1 \_\_\_\_\_ I love God sincerely & because I want to.

***1He wants your love to Him to make you healthy; He receives your growing love willingly.***

**SOMETIMES, OUR GROWING & STRUGGLING LOVE FOR GOD NEEDS SOME PROMPTING.**

- Deuteronomy 13:3 You shall not listen to the words of false prophets, for the LORD your God is TESTING you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.
- Deuteronomy 13:4 You shall WALK AFTER the LORD your God and FEAR Him and KEEP His commandments and OBEY His voice; you shall SERVE Him and HOLD FAST to Him.
- Deuteronomy 30:6 And the LORD your God will PRUNE & CLEAN your heart and the hearts of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, SO THAT YOU MAY LIVE.

13. Deut. 13:3 What may God have to do sometimes to keep your love for Him sharp, alert, and strong? \_\_\_\_\_
14. Deut. 13:4 Would you agree that even while we are "walking after God", "fearing Him", "keeping His commandments", "obeying His voice", "serving Him", and "holding fast", He will use us, stretch us, remind us, discipline us to keep our love for God real & fresh? Yes No
15. Deut. 30:6
- a. What must God do in our hearts sometimes? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. What is the whole purpose of God (Underlined)? \_\_\_\_\_

**Consider these thoughts:**


- "With all your heart and soul" = All the parts of you as a man or woman - what I think, what I fear, what I love, what I protect and cherish, what I want, what I dream about, what I feel (mind, emotions, will), and what keeps me going every day.

**PROVE YOU LOVE GOD:**

**ACTIONS REVEAL YOUR LOVE FOR GOD**  
**ACTIONS DEMONSTRATE YOUR LOVE FOR GOD**  
**ACTIONS PROVE YOUR LOVE FOR GOD**

16. How can you prove your love for God? Match the columns.
- a. Psalm 97:10      \_\_\_ If you love God, you will love those close to you.
- b. John 8:42        \_\_\_ If you love God, you will hate evil.
- c. 1 John 4:20      \_\_\_ If you love God, love others & obey His Word.
- d. 1 John 5:2        \_\_\_ If you love God, you will believe "there is one God only."

**Remember, that Jesus summed up all the 10 commandments into 2 commandments:**

ALL ABOUT LOVE 	<b>The 1st 4 Commands</b>	<b>Jesus' Summary</b>	<b>The 2<sup>nd</sup> 6 Commands</b>	<b>Jesus' Summary</b>
	Have no other gods.	"You shall <u>LOVE</u> the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. This is the 1 <sup>st</sup> & great commandment." Matt. 22:37-38	Honor your parents.	"And the second is like it - You shall <u>LOVE</u> your neighbor like you love yourself."  Matt. 22:39
	Do not worship idols.		Don't kill.	
	Honor God's name.		Don't commit adultery	
	Keep holy the Sabbath		Don't steal.	
Exodus 20:2-17	Don't lie.			
		Don't covet.		

## HOW DID JESUS DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT WITH PETER?

- John 21:15* So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these other men"? Peter replied, "Yes, Lord, You know that I love." Jesus said, "Feed My lambs."
- John 21:16* Jesus said to Peter a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter replied, "Yes, Lord, You know that I love." Jesus said, "Tend My sheep."
- John 21:17* Jesus said to Peter the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because it was the third time that Jesus said, "Do you love Me"? And Peter said, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said, "Feed My sheep".

### 17. Follow the conversation:

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| First Time  | Jesus: "Peter, do you <u>love</u> Me."<br>Peter: "You know I <u>like</u> You."       |
| Second Time | Jesus: "Peter, do you <u>like</u> Me."<br>Peter: "Lord, You know I <u>like</u> You". |
| Third Time  | Jesus: "Peter, do you <u>like</u> Me".<br>Peter: "Lord, You know I <u>like</u> You". |

*Jesus: "Peter, will you give your life, stand up for the truth, reach out with the good news to all who will listen? Will you love Me more than anyone else without any double in your heart?"*

*Peter: "Lord, I like being with You; I am hoping your message will change our way of life. I want to believe everything You say but I have secret doubts. Our traveling is very profitable."*

- a. What does through your heart as you read this? I feel grief & tears.

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### ***Was there any hope for Peter to have future ministry, to be used of God, to love God?***

18. Match the words & actions of Peter with the verses. The word "love" is not mentioned in any of these verses; let's look for love in Peter's life here. (Look hard.)

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| a. Acts 2:14-17 | ___ I love the Lord; Jesus will reign His kingdom forever.  |
| b. Acts 2:22    | ___ I love the Lord; Jesus lived among us.                  |
| c. Acts 2:23    | ___ I love the Lord; He kept His promise & sent the Spirit. |
| d. Acts 2:24    | ___ I love the Lord; He let you kill Him; I love you.       |
| e. Acts 2:30    | ___ I love the Lord; Jesus was raised from the dead.        |
| f. Acts 2:36    | ___ I love the Lord; His purpose was to pay for our sins.   |

### ***3000 PEOPLE MADE A DECISION TO ACCEPT CHRIST AFTER THAT SERMON.***

19. The Lord was patient was Peter; second chances and growth made the difference.

Has God given you a second chance to love Him? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

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**OK, let's go back to the "Love Languages". It sounds a little crude but could God actually have &/or accept these 5 "love languages from us?**

## **20. WORDS OF AFFECTION (Words For Loving God)**

*John 1:49 Nathaniel answered Jesus, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God. You are the King of Israel".*

*John 20:28 Thomas said to Jesus, "My Lord and my God."*

*Matthew 16:16 Peter answered Jesus, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God".*

*John 6:68 Peter answered Jesus, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God".*

- a. Did Jesus tell any of these men not to say these things?  Yes  No
- b. Did these men grow in their faith by saying these things to Him?  Yes  No
- c. Is there anyone else who these men could say these words to?  Yes  No
- d. When Jesus heard this from them, wasn't that love to Him?  Yes  No

## **21. QUALITY TIME (Time For Loving God)**

*Psalms 115:18 But we will bless the Lord from this time forth and forevermore.*

## **22. PHYSICAL TOUCH (A Touch For Loving God)**

*Genesis 32:30 So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.*

*Luke 8:44 The infirmed woman came up behind Jesus and touched the hem of His garment. Immediately, her menstrual problem stopped.*

- a. Obviously, we cannot touch the Lord physically. Can't we touch the very heart of Jesus when we pray to Him?  Yes  No
- b. Can we touch the Lord when we seek instruction from His word?  Yes  No
- c. Can we touch the Lord when we help someone He loves?  Yes  No

## **23. ACTS OF SERVICE (Service For Loving God)**

*Romans 12:1-2 I strongly plead with you brothers, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living, holy, and acceptable sacrifice to God, which is your expected service. And do not be squeezed into the evil world's mold, but be changed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

- a. Wouldn't the best service you could give God actually be YOU?  Yes  No

## **24. RECEIVING GIFTS (Gifts For Loving God)**

*John 1:45-46 Philip found Nathaniel and said, "We have found the Messiah Who is to come from Nazareth." Nathaniel responded, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip replied to Nathaniel, "Come and see".*

- a. Wouldn't the best gift for the Lord be for you to bring Him a lost, searching person who desperately needs salvation from Jesus?  Yes  No

**THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO LOVE THE LORD. GET STARTED!**