

## FAITH & OUR COVENANTAL LOVE OF JESUS

1. Components of faith: knowledge, assent, trust.
2. What human faculty is involved in the personal trust of discipleship?
  - i. Danger of nominalism: "Xn" in name only - Tit 1:16
3. Regeneration: *created in Christ Jesus for good works* [Eph 2:10]. How is regeneration evidenced? Faith & repentance.
  - i. Prevalent focus on the will: decision. Fear nominalism [2T 3:5].
  - ii. Trust. The will involved in a full-orbed personal love of Jesus.

### 1st: The Necessity of Regeneration

1. Regeneration issues into life of faith [Eph 2:1, 5]. Repentance & faith are the effects of new birth [Jn 6:44a]. Jn 6:45 *comes to Me*. Jesus' person
2. Faith - Jn 6:27-30 Jesus = *the work of God* as true manna, living H2O & Passover Lamb: eating & drinking [v46-58] = faith -> life [v54].
3. Who was allowed to eat Passover Lamb? People in covenant w/ Lord.

### 2nd: Faith in Jesus Qualifies Us to be Members of the New Covenant.

1. Eph 2:11-13 [cld consider Hebs re: NCov & Rom 11:26-27]
2. *saved thru faith* [v8] = NCov *by the blood of Christ* [1C 11:25 - LT].

### 3rd: Conversion Issues into New Covenant Life of Loving Service to Jesus.

1. \*Trust is covenant love in the God one worships & serves.\* All faculties of soul direct the course of the life lived: mind, conscience, will -> devotion of worship & service: covenantal love. Ex 20:2-8
2. 1 Thes 1:2-5 Trinity; God's choice; gospel; power of HS - *faith, love, hope* [1C 13:13] - which is *the greatest?* *Love*.
  - i. 1 Th 1:9-10 conversion = obed to 1st table of Law - Ist & IInd.

- ii. Conversion is not a momentary crisis of faith, but issues into a life of covenantal love to Jesus as the God we worship - *My Lord & my God!*
3. Gal 5:5-6 note: *faith, hope, love - faith working thru love*.
  - i. *means* = be strong, ability - in judicial context = legal validity. English: *meaning* - purpose, significance to what is done.
    - a. Context? v5 - waiting for Jesus' return. Is a judicial context? Yes the vindication [*righteousness*] of a living loving faith seen by its works - productive of fruit. Not nominalism of Tit 1:16.
    - b. Faith of covenant love in obed to Ist & IInd commandments
    - c. *in love* - cov loyalty. Sum of the law = love - v14. Mar 12:28-34
    - d. *faith working thru love* has *meaning* in view of 2nd coming
4. Gal 6:15-16 here *faith working thru love* is replaced w/ *a new creation = the Israel of God* - NCov People of God

### 4th: What/Who You Love Reveals the God You Worship and Serve

1. Recall NCov promised in Jer 31:31-34 - God writes law into heart. What law? 10 commandments = love God & love neighbor - note Xth c.
2. Jn Edwards *On Xn Affections* - 'beauty' - what is desired. Xth c. circles back into the Ist & IInd c. & addresses the love of our hearts.
3. Where is faith most manifest? In the energy we devote to our deity: Love Jesus w/ all *heart, soul, mind, strength*.
  - i. Energetic faith in our work [Col 3:23]; our marriages [Eph 5:25; Col 3:18]; our child-rearing [Eph 6:4]. Entire life lived - Col 3:17.
  - ii. All life devoted in service to Jesus = covenantal love: *faith working thru love* = "the Israel of God".

### 5th: Trust Jesus Personally with Personal Trust.

1. Know Jesus personally. He speaks living words to His living people. Jn 17:3.

2. Know that He loves you personally - Jn 10:3. Live confident of His love. Live w/ energetic faith, loving, worshiping, serving - that life has meaning. Love Jesus & be loved by Jesus & have all that you desire - 1Jn 3:2.