

GOSPEL OF JOHN
HOW MUCH DO WE LOVE JESUS?
JOHN 14:15

Introduction

If I were to ask the question today... *“How many of you LOVE JESUS?”* and ask for a **show of hands**, I have no doubt this morning that the vast majority, and maybe even all of us without hesitation would throw up your hands to **TESTIFY** that we indeed **LOVE JESUS**. And that’s a good thing!
I hope that you do **LOVE JESUS!**

I could even ask if there are any among us who would like to stand up and give a **TESTIMONY** of your **LOVE** for **JESUS** and I have no doubt that many of you would freely stand and **TESTIFY** both of **HIS LOVE FOR YOU** and of **YOUR LOVE FOR HIM!** And that’s also a good thing!

1 John 4:19– “We love him, because he first loved us.”

We should be quick to **TESTIFY** of our **LOVE FOR JESUS** after all that **HE HAS DONE** for us! There really shouldn’t even be any hesitation!

Psalm 107:2– “Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, Whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;”

Often we **SING SONGS** that speak of our **LOVE for JESUS!**
And that is also good as we should **SING PRAISES** of **HIS LOVE FOR US** and lift up our voices in **SONGS SINGING** of **OUR LOVE FOR HIM!**

Psalm 13:6– “I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me.”

Psalm 30:4– “Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, And give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.”

Psalm 95:1– “O come, let us sing unto the LORD: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.”

Hebrews 13:15– “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.”

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But let’s let **JESUS** stop us in our tracks this morning as we hear **HIM** speak here to **HIS DISCIPLES** calling for them (and us) to **SHOW THEIR LOVE** to **HIM** in a very specific way! *Read the TEXT...JOHN 14:15.*

We can **LIFT OUR HANDS** that we **LOVE JESUS**...and we should!
We can **TESTIFY** with our mouth that we **LOVE JESUS**...and we should!
We can **SING SONGS OF PRAISE** because we **LOVE JESUS**...and we should!

But do we KEEP JESUS’ COMMANDMENTS showing HIM and OTHERS of our LOVE FOR HIM?

1. Does our **LIFE SHOW** that we **LOVE JESUS?**
2. Do our **ACTIONS PROVE** our **LOVE FOR JESUS?**
3. Are the **CHOICES** that we make based on our **LOVE FOR JESUS?**
4. Would others **TESTIFY** of our **LOVE FOR JESUS** from what they **SEE** and **KNOW** about how we **LIVE?**

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As a **PASTOR**, I have spent a fair amount of time at the visitations held for those who have passed from this life into eternity. At those visitations, I learn what the deceased was **passionate** about when their friends and family talk about them and their life!

Sometimes I have found that some were **passionate about their family!** I love that! **We should be passionate about the family we have been blessed with!**

Others I found were **passionate** about a particular sport or sports team ...for others it might have been hunting or fishing...and for others maybe it was food or cooking... and I could go on! Now, there is usually nothing inherently wrong with most of what is said and it’s a good thing that the person enjoyed life!

But there is something that always causes me to take notice! That’s when someone speaks of the **LOVE** that the deceased had for **JESUS** and how that **LOVE** was evident not only in their **WORDS**, but in their **LIFE!**

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Some of you know that during this **COVID** pandemic I lost a dear **PREACHER** friend of mine in Indiana (Pastor Larrel Boling). As I viewed the Facebook posts and the posts at the funeral home's web page about what folks were saying about Bro. Larrel it struck me what folks were saying.

Some talked about his being a **good preacher** and **family man**, which he was. But what really stood out were the ones that mentioned his **LOVE FOR THE LORD!** It got me to thinking about what folks might say about my life?

When I die it is not my goal for people to **only say**, "*Yeah, Bro. Jerry was a good preacher and teacher of the WORD...he was a good PASTOR...and he was a loving HUSBAND, FATHER and GRANDFATHER.*" Now those things are nice and I hope they are said but ultimately I want people to say... "**YOU COULD TELL BY HIS LIFE THAT HE SURE LOVED JESUS!**"

So let's do some self-examination this morning! What about us? When people see us, can they **SEE** and **KNOW** of our **LOVE for the LORD** by the **LIFE** we are living? Do they see a **LIFE OF OBEDIENCE** to the **LORD's COMMANDS** in us? I've got to tell you, I don't think that is a priority in most **BELIEVERS** lives today! Not from what I see!

Better yet, what would the **LORD** have to say about us and our **LOVE for HIM?** Is that thought convicting to us as we think of how we are **LIVING?** What does our **OBEDIENCE to HIM or lack thereof** tell of our **LOVE?**

Throughout **HIS WORD** the **LORD** confronts **HIS** people and addresses their inconsistent actions toward **HIM**.

Look at what the **LORD** said through **JOSHUA** to **HIS** people in *Joshua 24*.

There Was The Review Of The LORD'S Blessings! (*Vs 1-13*)

There Was The Rehearsing Of Their Responsibilities! (*Vs 14-15*)

There Was The Denial Of There Being Any Problem! (*Vs 16-18*)

There Was The Reality Of Their Nature! (*Vs 19-20*)

There Was The Renewal Of Their Covenant To LORD! (*Vs 21-27*)

Look also at *Malachi 1:6 -8* their actions were inconsistent with their words.

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If we were only as **FAITHFUL AND DEVOTED** to our job as we are to **JESUS** would we still be employed?

If we were only as **FAITHFUL AND DEVOTED** to our spouse as we are to **JESUS** how would that affect our home life? Would we still be married?

If we paid our bills like we pay our **TITHES** would that be a good thing or would we have our **CREDITORS** hounding us?

If we were only as **OBEDIENT** to **MAN'S LAWS** as we are to **GOD'S COMMANDS** would we still be free or would we be behind bars?

I want us to consider these things for a little while today as we ask the question "**HOW MUCH DO WE LOVE JESUS?**"

We need to understand this: **JESUS IS NOT PERSUADED BY OUR WORDS ALONE!** HE can see **BEYOND** our words! HE sees directly into our **HEART** and HE sees **EVERYTHING** that we **DO** and **KNOWS** the **REALITY** of our **LOVE** by what we **DO!**

We may fool our friends...We may fool our family... We may fool our spouse! We may even fool ourselves...but we can't fool **JESUS!** **JESUS KNOWS OUR HEART!**

So let's get real today... "**HOW MUCH DO WE LOVE JESUS?**"

I. LET'S CONSIDER WHAT JESUS SAID IS THE EVIDENCE OF OUR LOVE FOR HIM!

John 14:15 – "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

Notice that **JESUS** begins this statement with "**IF**"!

IF we really do **LOVE JESUS** there will be **EVIDENCE** and **JESUS** makes it very clear what the **EVIDENCE** of **LOVE** for **HIM** will be... **OBEDIENCE!!**

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How **OBEDIENT** are we to the **LORD JESUS CHRIST**?
Can the lost see and know we are **CHRISTIANS** by being around us
and watching our daily lives?

Sadly, there are too many today who want to live life their own way
and too few **CHRISTIANS** that are doing their best to **OBEY JESUS!**

Too many professing **BELIEVERS** only want to **DO WHAT THEY**
WANT TO DO and **WHEN THEY WANT TO DO IT!**

They **TOTALLY MISS** the concept that **WE ARE NOT OUR OWN**
but rather **WE BELONG TO THE LORD!**

*1 Corinthians 6:19–20—“19 What? know ye not that your body is the
temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye
are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify
God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”*

The **APOSTLE JOHN** not only recorded **JESUS’** words here in this
GOSPEL, but he reiterates this **TRUTH** in his **FIRST EPISTLE!**
(1 John 2:3-6)

This doesn’t mean that **BELIEVERS** will not sometimes fail, but it
does mean that there will be **OBEDIENCE** in the hearts of those who
TRULY LOVE THE LORD!

Anyone can **SAY** they love the **LORD**, but the **PROOF** or the
EVIDENCE is in our **OBEDIENCE TO THE LORD!**

II. LET’S EXAMINE OUR LOVE FOR JESUS! (Matthew 22:35-40)
Do We Obey The Greatest Commandment? (Vs 37-38)

Many will proclaim their **LOVE** for the **LORD** and even that **HE IS**
FIRST in their life...but then they place **something else** or **someone**
else before **HIM**.

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But if we truly **LOVE THE LORD**, **HE** will have the
PREEMINENCE in **ALL THINGS** in every area of our life!

Does **HE** have the **PREEMINENCE** or are there times when
something else of **someone else** is placed ahead of **HIM?**

The more we let **PEOPLE** or **THINGS** or even the **DESIRES** of our
FLESH get in the way of our **LOVE FOR THE LORD**, the easier it
becomes to do it again the next time!

IF THE LORD IS FIRST IN OUR LOVE IT WILL SHOW:

A. In Our Church Attendance! (Hebrews 10:25)
The late Dr. Adrian Rogers said that *"every time you willingly
choose not to attend a worship service you are casting a vote to
close the doors"*.

As a pastor it is very frustrating to spend hours upon hours
digging into **the WORD OF GOD** preparing **messages and**
then have so few here to hear them because to so many it is not
a priority for them to be here!

Today, there will be professing **BELIEVERS** who will be at
the **TPC Golf Tournament** rather than in **CHURCH!**

I know what I’m talking about because when I first came here it
happened in this **CHURCH!** I’m talking about someone who
was coming here who was in **CHURCH** leadership at the time!

And during football season, some will forsake the **CHURCH**
services to go watch the **JAGUARS** play!
I know that also has happened here before as well!

I have had people ask me to pray for their family members who
are not in **CHURCH**, which I gladly do. And then they miss
CHURCH to go do something **SECULAR** on the **LORD’S**
DAY with those same ones they asked me to pray for!

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IF THE LORD IS FIRST IN OUR LOVE IT WILL SHOW...

A. *In Our Church Attendance!*

B. In Our Giving Of Our Tithes And Offerings!
(Malachi 3:8-11)

How can we rob **GOD**? Consider the fact that **ALL** that we have belongs to **GOD**! **GOD** is gracious enough to allow us to keep the majority of what **HE** has blessed us with. **HE** only asks for a small portion in return. *(The Tithes = 10%)*

But when **GOD'S PEOPLE** held back and didn't give **HIM HIS TITHES and OFFERINGS**, **HE** said that **HIS** people robbed **HIM**!

Suppose **GOD** was only as **FAITHFUL** to **GIVE** to us **FINANCIALLY** in proportion to how **FAITHFUL** we are to **GIVE** to **HIM FINANCIALLY**?

What if you had to live this week off of 9 times what you gave to the **LORD** last week? How would that work for you?

If everyone in the **CHURCH** gave like you, would that be good for our **CHURCH** or would we have to close the doors because we wouldn't have the money to keep the lights on and the other bills paid?

What about the **MISSIONARIES** we support that rely on our **CHURCH**? Where would that leave them?

We need to give the **LORD** what's **RIGHT**, not what's **LEFT**!

C. In Our Service For The LORD! (Romans 12:1-2)

We may say we love the **LORD**, but what are we **DOING TO SERVE HIM**? And understand that just coming to **CHURCH** is **NOT SERVING HIM**!

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Each person who is **SAVED** is a part of **CHRIST'S BODY** and is to be an **ACTIVE MEMBER** of a **LOCAL NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH DOING HIS WILL**!

1 Corinthians 12:12 – “For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.”

If we are HIS BODY:

Why aren't HIS ARMS REACHING TO OTHERS?
Why aren't HIS HANDS SERVING AND HELPING?
Why aren't HIS FEET GOING?

In my 40+ years of Ministry for the **LORD** I've heard about every **excuse** that folks give for not **servicing in the CHURCH**!

Understand we might offer our **EXCUSES**, but that doesn't mean they are acceptable before the **LORD**! The reality is that most of us **USUALLY FIND A WAY TO DO THE THINGS THAT WE REALLY WANT TO DO!**

We started off by asking the question **“HOW MANY OF YOU LOVE JESUS?”** **JESUS** is not fooled with **OUR WORDS... HE SEES OUR HEART AND OUR ACTIONS OR INACTION!** We need to ask ourselves—What does **JESUS** see and know of my love for **HIM**?

If we say, **“I LOVE JESUS”!** **JESUS' WORDS** here say: **“If ye love me, keep my commandments.”**