

Loving to Please God

Love the Love Part 4

1 John 5:2-3; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; August 29, 2021

*In Christ, God is pleased with us and we are pleased with God above all,
so we live to please God above all.*

²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. – 1 John 5:2-3

- 'know'* = for those who care!
- 'love'* = consists of delight, desire, doing, and 'death' (in other words, the kind of love God calls us to is one that delights, in some sense, in the one loved, desires their good, does good to them as defined by God and is willing to 'die' or sacrifice in order to do so, as in the cross – 1 John 3:16-18; 3:23; 4:10; 5:1-3)
- 'commandments'* = what God tells us to do or not do
- 'observe'* = to do or practice and thus, make visible
- 'keep'* = watch over; keep guard over; hold on to as a treasure
- 'burdensome'* = weighty; that which weighs one down and thus, would keep us from our goal or good

1. Our goal should be to please God.

Whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight. – 1 John 3:22

Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. – 2 Corinthians 5:9

Is your goal to please God?

2. Pleasing God means loving as God commands.

²³This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. ²⁴The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us. – 1 John 3:23-24

But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. – 1 Timothy 1:5

Current Culture in and outside the Church: *Everyone does what is right in their own eyes.* (Deuteronomy 12:8; Judges 17:6; 21:25; Proverbs 12:15) We define 'love' and 'ourselves' and our 'lifestyle' according to our own standards and preferences and comforts.

How do you define love?

3. You can't love people without loving God.

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. – 1 John 5:2

³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together. ³⁵ One of them, a lawyer, asked Him *a question*, testing Him, ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And He said to him, “‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ ³⁸ This is the great and foremost commandment. ³⁹ The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.” – Matthew 22:34-40

How do you know that you are loving your spouse? your children? your neighbor?

Do you think/act as if you can love people without loving God?

4. You can't love God without loving His Word.

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments – 1 John 5:3a

I shall delight in Your commandments, Which I love. – Psalm 119:47; see also 119:48, 97, 113, 119, 127, 140, 159, 163, 165, 167

Do you think/act as if you can love God and not love the Bible?

5. You can't love God's Word without seeing it as satisfied and satisfying.

and His commandments are not burdensome. – 1 John 5:3b

Jesus has satisfied the demands of the Law for us. – Matthew 11:28-30; John 19:30

The Law or Word of God, when trusted and obeyed, satisfies us now and forever. – Psalm 19:7-11; John 15:8-11

How do you make decisions?

What if you don't love God's Law?