

DO YOU LOVE JESUS ?

Int.

1. Aim: To teach some valuable lessons that we all need about really loving Jesus.
2. Text Jn 21:15-17
3. This is an important question today - even though it was asked nearly 2000 years ago
 - a. This was asked by Christ to Simon
 - b. Simon had denied his Lord 3 times and is now called upon to express his love for Christ 3 times.
 - c. Jesus asked him "**Lovest thou me more than these?**" v. 15 NKJV "**...do you love Me more than these?**"
 - d. Moffatt's translation - "Do you love me more than the others do?"
4. Do we love Jesus?

Discussion

I. DO WE REALLY LOVE JESUS ? If so: Here are 7 things we will do...

- A. **# 1 We will want to obey him** - Jn. 14:15,21,23
 1. If we love a person we want to please that person. -- We find what he likes, and seek to do those things. We try to avoid doing those things that are not pleasing to him.
 2. This is also true with the Christian and Christ
 - a. I Jn. 2:4-5
 - b. We learn what he likes and we will do our best to follow it
 - c. We know what he hates and we will cease it.

B. **# 2 We will want to be in his Presence -**

1. When we really love a person we delight to be in his company. We wish to be in their presence and hate to think of bidding them farewell.
2. It is also true with the Christian and Christ
 - a. The devoted Christian looks forward to the coming of each Lord's day when he can remember his Lord's death - I Cor. 10:16;11:26
 - b. Heb. 10:25 was written to Hebrew Christians whose love for Christ had grown weak.
 - c. Neglect of the assembly was one of the first symptoms of their apostasy - Heb. 3:12, 4:1
 - d. A Christian longs for that blessed day when he will see His Master face to face and be at home forever with the Lord. -
 - (1) Phil. 3:20; **"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:"**
 - (2) I John 3:2 **"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."**

C. **# 3 We will want to talk with Him**

1. We love to talk to those whom we love. We have no difficulty in finding a subject for conversation with a much-loved person.
2. A true Christian loves to talk to the Lord.

- a. We do this through prayer. -
 - (1) Heb. 4:14-16
 - (2) Jas. 5:16 - effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man
 - (3) I Pet. 3:12 - his ears are open unto their prayers
- b. The question is not do we love to pray, but do we love Jesus.
- c. Prayer is our talking to God, but God talks to us through his word.- Ps. 1:1-2:19:7-10: 119:97 "O **how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day."**

D. **# 4 We will be glad to bring Him gifts and offerings - Mt. 2:11**

- 1. The young man takes gifts of flowers and perfume to his girlfriend - We love to give gifts to those whom we really love
- 2. What kind of a giver does the Lord Love?
 - a. II Cor. 9:7 - God loves a cheerful giver
 - b. The cheerful giver is one who gives because he loves the Lord and delights to give to Him.
 - c. The grudging giver is not acceptable.

E. **# 5 We will be willing to sacrifice for His cause** - Jn. 3:16: Gal. 1:4: Eph. 5:1-2

I Jn. 4:10

- 1. What would you think of able-bodied and prosperous parents who would allow their children to go hungry and unclothed? - We would not think that they loved their children.
- 2. We must be willing to make a sacrifice for God.
 - a. Rm. 12:1 - present your bodies a living sacrifice

b. Under the Law of Moses they offered animals who were not consulted.

c. Under the Gospel of Christ we are to offer our self - I I Cor. 8:12

F. **# 6 We will be willing to abandon anything for the name of Christ**

1. If we love a person we will deny ourselves anything to please him.

2. It is also true with the Christian and Christ

a. He will forego anything that would bring reflection upon the cause of Christ --

I Cor. 10:31-32 - do all to the glory of God

b. He will also forego anything that would cause his brother to stumble. -- Mat.

18:6 Rm. 14:21: 15:1-2 I Cor. 8:9-13

G. **# 7 We will love all of Christ's Disciples - I Jn. 5:1**

1. If we really love a person we will like his friends also. We are drawn to them by a common tie of mutual love. We will be favorably inclined to them even before we come to know them. When we meet them we do not feel altogether a stranger to them.

2. 1 John 5:1 " **Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.**"

3. It is the same between a true Christian and Christ.

a. All of Christ's friends are his friends.

b. They are all members of the same body, children of the same heavenly family, soldiers in the same army and laborers in the same vineyard.

c. I Jn. 3:14-15; 4:7-8; 4:20

II. THE OCCASION OF THE TEXT

- A. The Night before the Betrayal of Jesus. - Mt. 26:31
1. He tells them that they would all be offended that night because of Him. - Mt. 26:33,35
 2. Jesus Predicted that Peter would deny him 3 times. - Mt. 26:34
 3. Peter did just as Jesus had predicted - Mt. 26:69-75
- B. After the Lord's resurrection, Jesus calls upon Peter to express his love for him 3 times.
1. "Love" in these verses is from 2 different Greek words.
 - a. "agape" - a love that rises out of deep devotion; to love devotedly, affectionately, ardently; prompted by devotion." - Jn. 3:16; Eph. 5:25
 - b. "phileo" - to befriend; to like; prompted by emotion.
 2. In Jesus' first two questions to Peter, He used the strong term for love - "agape"
 3. Peter's reply each time was with the weaker term for love "phileo"
 4. But the third time Jesus came down to the level of Peter's word for love - "phileo"
 - a. Naturally Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, lovest (phileis) thou me?" - v. 17
 - b. Peter replied again "Lord thou knowest all thing; thou knowest that I love (phileo) thee." v. 17
- C. Do You really love Jesus if as a child of God you,,,
1. Stay home because of company
 2. Miss worship because of clothes - Because of a lack of new clothes, lets pride keep him away from the worship, problem.

3. Skip worship to do other things
4. Fail to give as prospered
5. Neglect Bible Study and Prayer
6. What is wrong? It is "phileo" instead of "agape" !
7. We must have strong, devoted, genuine love for God.

Conclusion

1. Do you really love Jesus?
 2. John said "**We love him, because he first loved us.**" I Jn. 4:19 Love = agape
 3. When we read the gospel accounts of Jesus and learn of His life, death, and sufferings it shows His love for us.
 4. Do you Jesus because he has loved you?
 5. Jas. 1:12 "**Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.**"
 6. If you really love Jesus then you will become a Christian and remain faithful to Him.
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