

Love God's Way

God Defines Love

- ❖ There is God's Way and then ours – Prov. 14:12
 - We run into difficulties when we try present ourselves as Christians yet love according to the world and not God's standards
- ❖ If we say we are disciples, then we should do what disciples do – John 8:41
- ❖ Love is a combination of elements – 1 Cor. 13:4-7
- ❖ We are known by our love – 1 John 3:14; John 13:34-35
- ❖ God's love defines who we are – 1 John 4:8

God's Way

- ❖ We are commanded to love one another AS Christ loves us – John 13:34-35
- ❖ Love is not a mere feeling, but a way of acting based on God's example – John 3:16; John 15:13
- ❖ God's way of love is among other things:
 - Unconditional – agape
 - Forgiving
 - Listening
 - Sacrificial
- ❖ Love is a true sign of true discipleship – 1 John 4:8
 - Is evidence of being born again – 1 John 4:7-10

That's not love

- ❖ Love is shown in our actions – Eph. 3:17-21; 1 John 2:4
- ❖ Our faith works by love – Gal. 5:6
- ❖ Are we following this passage: Gal. 6:10
- ❖ We are commanded to be an example – Mat. 28:19-20
- ❖ There is a lot of hypocrisy in those professing to know Christ, yet don't operate in His Love
 - Why go on mission trips if we don't want our brothers and sisters we "ministered Christ" to here?
- ❖ True discipleship involves knowing and living the truth – John 8:31-59

Love & Lust Don't Mix

What is lust?

- ❖ Lust: strong craving for sex. It also can mean a hunger for anything, like lust for power. (vocabulary.com)
- ❖ Epithumia: general longing, strong desire
- ❖ Deals with what we desire most
 - Special note: All desires are not sinful. It is when the desire is more important to you than obedience to God –
 - When a God-given desire becomes corrupted and used against God

The test – where does lust lead you?

- ❖ Ultimately leads us to sin because it takes place of preeminence in us that should belong to God
- ❖ Be cautious of the drawing away – James 1:14-16, Titus 3:3; Eph. 2:1-3; Mark 4:19
 - Doesn't happen overnight but can still be happening
 - What is drawing your heart away from God? Mat. 5:28
- ❖ Lust ultimately seeks to lead you to its source and destruction – John 8:44; Pro. 6:25-28, 32

Areas of Lust we will address

- ❖ Sexual – Gen. 1:28; Gen. 2:24; Heb. 13:4; 1 Cor. 7:2
- ❖ Power – 1 John 2:16-17; Luke 4:1-13
- ❖ Self-Gratification – James 4:1-17; 1 Pet. 4:1-3
- ❖ Attention – John 12:43; James 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:5; Mat. 6:1-4

Overcome Lust by Growing Closer to God in love

- ❖ Abstaining – 1 Pet. 2:11; 1 Cor. 6:18-20
- ❖ Stop missing your exit – 1 Cor. 10:13
- ❖ Walk in the Spirit – Gal. 5:16-17
- ❖ Guard your eyes – Psalm 119:37; Mat. 18:9
- ❖ Jesus – Rom. 7:19-25
- ❖ Accountability – Pro. 27:17
- ❖ Cry out to God – Psalm 51:1-10

He still loves you!

Loving What God Loves

Am I in alignment with God? – Psa. 19:7-14

- ❖ I must settle that God's Word is complete, settled and leads to conversion – vs. 7; Mat. 24:35
- ❖ We can trust God to lead us – vs. 7
- ❖ God's statutes, or commands are right (proper, just, equal) – Psa. 103:18; Psa. 111:7
- ❖ Fear (yiraw: morally reverence; respect is clean (tahor: genuine, pure) – vs. 9
- ❖ Judgements are true ('emeth: firmnes, faithfulness, reliable, stability) and righteous (tsâdaq: to be just), altogether (yachad: a unit) definitions from Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Definitions
- ❖ These should be desired, they help cleanse us, keep us in alignment with God – vs. 10-14

Alignment requires knowing the specs

- ❖ Lust: strong craving for sex. It also can mean a hunger for anything, like lust for power. (vocabulary.com)

Because God is love, I must love what He loves

- ❖ God loves mankind – John 3:16
- ❖ God loves the sinner – Rom. 5:8
- ❖ God loves His children – Jer. 3:14; 1 John 3:1; 4:11, 16
- ❖ God loves justice – Psa. 37:28; Isa. 61:8
- ❖ God loves the righteous – Psa. 146:8; Prov. 15:9
- ❖ God loves those who fear (reverence) Him – Psa. 103:11
- ❖ God loves cheerful givers – 2 Cor. 9:7
- ❖ God loves unity in Him – John 17:21-23
- ❖ God loves His Body, the Church – Eph. 5:25; Rom. 8:35-39; John 15:13

I must understand what God hates

- ❖ God loves the sinner but hates sin – Psa. 45:7; Heb. 1:9
- ❖ God hates lawlessness – 1 John 3:4; 2 Thes. 2:9
 - How should we feel about lawlessness? Heb. 1:9; 2 Pet. 2:1-8
- ❖ Proverbs 6:16-19
 - Pride – Luke 10:18
 - Lying tongue – Titus 1:2; John 8:44
 - Hands that shed innocent blood – Exo. 20:13; Mat. 5:21-22
 - Heart that devises wicked imaginations – Gen 6:5
 - Feet that be swift to run to mischief – Psa. 52:1-3; Psa. 1
 - A false witness that speaks lies – Pro. 12:17; Pro. 21:28
 - He that sows discord amongst the brethren – Pro. 18:19; Psa. 133

Loving God More than Anything

The Cost of Discipleship

- ❖ A personal cross – Luke 14:27; Mark 8:34;
- ❖ A personal consecration –

Love Draws

- ❖ Rom. 6:44; John 3:16-17

Love Separates

- ❖ Am I willing to separate myself from what God does not love?
- ❖ Separation is many times physical and mental – Gen. 19:26; Luke 17:26-37
- ❖ Am I willing to love but be separate from those opposing Christ? Tit. 3:10
- ❖ What are you yoked to? 2 Cor. 6:14-18
- ❖ Separation from idolatry – Jonah 2:8 (NIV); 1 Pet. 4:1-6

The Standard – Luke 10:27; Deut. 6:5

More than...

- ❖ Family – Matthew 10:34-39, Mic. 7:6; Luke 9:59-60
- ❖ Friends – Pro. 12:26; Psa. 1
 - World – James 4:4; Mark 8:34-38; Mat. 16:26
- ❖ Fellowships –
 - We are called out of darkness – John 8:12; Mat. 5:34-37; Eph. 5:11
 - Twisted doctrines – 1 Tim. 4:1; Gal. 1:6-9; 1 John 4:1; 1 Tim. 6:3-5

A Question to Ponder

What have you been actively loving more than God?

