

How to Love God

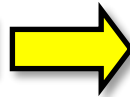


We are nearly at Valentine’s Day– the holiday that expresses love to the people that mean so much to us. Biblically, love is much more than a feeling. It is expressed in actions.

And, in a wonderful way, what Jesus does with the middle section of the *Sermon on the Mount* is show us how to love God. Although that principle is expressed in the O.T., especially in the Psalms, God was more to be feared than love. Obedience came as a result of not wanting to experience the wrath of God.

- Hebrews 12:18-21 (22-24; 4:16)
- Jesus teaches us how to love God

The Love of God Expressed Three Ways:



All three sections begin with “do not” (1, 19,25)

1. In Meaningful _____ of God (Mt 6:1-18)

- Practicing righteousness is a form of worship
 - Practicing righteousness is demonstrated through giving alms, saying prayers, and fasting
- These were not new things that Jesus was introducing

Jesus shows a negative: how it is not to be done—thus, the improper way of doing “religious” things does not show the love of God

To love God in worship is to seek Him with the right motives:

The hypocrites seek the praise of others (1, 2, 5, 16)

- They have their reward in full (2,5,16) - that’s all they are going to get
- There is nothing coming from God

Jesus shows that when worship is from the heart your Father who is in secret will repay (4,6,18)

God is our _____

God is in secret but He _____

God _____ those who truly love Him

- (a) when giving alms:
- (b) when praying:
- (c) when fasting:

We demonstrate our love for God by the way we worship. What are some take-a-ways:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

2. In _____ to God (Mt 6:19-24)

- This "treasure" is not "earthly", nor can it be stolen or destroyed
- You cannot have a _____ heart (6:24)

Jesus does not give us a "list" of Heavenly treasures. What would be some?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

3. In _____ God (Mt 6:25-34)

- "Anxious" (25,27,28,31,34)
- Won't God take _____ of you (26)?
- Can worry make things _____ for you (27-28)?
- Worry is _____ (29-33)
- Focus upon _____ (34)

Worry discounts our trust in the Lord and thus shows a lack of love. When is it hard to trust God?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

When asked what the greatest commandment was, Jesus said to Love God (Mt 22:37)

- It is possible, as a congregation to not love God (Rev 2:4)

