

Title: Disciples Love God

Text: Deuteronomy (6: 4-5,) 4"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

I. Introduction — The Bible's Expectation for our Emotional Life

II. Four Aspects of Loving God

A. Why God Commands Us To Love Him

1. What Does It Mean To Love God - Heart, Soul, and Strength?

Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

2. "The Lord Is One"

a. The Translation

"YHVH our God YHVH one." "The Lord Our God, The Lord is one". Or, "The Lord is our God, the Lord alone."

b. Augustine's Trinity

c. God is love

B. We Can't Love God

1. Hostility to God

Romans 8:7-8 7 "The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. 8 Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God."

a. The First and Greatest Sin — Not Loving God

Matthew 22:37-38, "Jesus replied: '37 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the first and greatest commandment.' "

b. The Pain of Rejection

2. God As Our Husband

a. Human History Begins With a Marriage — Genesis 1 and 2

b. Human History Ends With a Marriage — Revelation 19-21

And in **Revelation 19:7**, 'Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. '

Revelation 21:2, it says, 'I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.'

In **Revelation 21:9**, the angel says, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the lamb."

3. The Adultery of Idolatry

- a. Friendship with the world is enmity with God

James 4:4 "You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God."

- b. The Bible Calls Our Faithlessness Adultery

In **Jeremiah 13:27**: "your adulteries and lustful neighings, your shameless prostitution! I have seen your detestable acts on the hills and in the fields. Woe to you, Jerusalem! How long will you be unclean?"

In **Ezekial 16:15** "But you trusted in your beauty and used your fame to become a prostitute. You lavished your favors on anyone who passed by and your beauty became his."

4. Putting Ourselves In God's Place

- a. Jonathan Edwards: Men Naturally God's Enemies
- b. The X Files

5. God's Perfection - Martin Luther: I hate God!

Matthew 5:43-48, "You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

C. Why We Can Love God

1. God's Perfection in Love

Matthew 5:43-48 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

2. What God's Love Cost the Father

- a. Love Jesus so much your relationship with others looks like hate

Luke 14: 26-27: Jesus says, 'If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. “

b. The Father Pours Wrath on the Son

3. We Can Be Disciples Because We Have Peace With God Through Christ

Romans 5:1 “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,”

D. What Our Love for God Looks Like?

1. What Our Love For God Looks Like

Psalm 95 1-2, 6-7 “1Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord ; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. 2 Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song... 6 Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; 7 for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care. Today, if only you would hear his voice,”

- a. Knowing God
- b. Worshipping God

Worship is to honor with extravagant love and extreme submission. **Webster's Dictionary, 1828**

2. Church Where We Worship God

a. First, Church is Where We Experience New Family

Acts 2:42-47, “They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ... All the believers were together and had everything in common...Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

b. Second, Church is Where We Come To Know God - **Psalm 95** “7Today, if only you would hear his voice...”

c. Third, Church is Where We Praise God Together - **Psalm 95** “1Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord ; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. 2 Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song...”

d. Fourth, Church is Where We Unite With God Through the His Means of Grace — Communion —

Luke 22:19-20, “And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In

the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. “

e. Fifth, Church is Where We Receive The Lord’s Blessing - His Benediction

Numbers 6:22-27, “The Lord said to Moses, “Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: “ ‘“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”’ “So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.”

III. Closing

1. Prayer
2. Benediction