

**EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE FOR GOD (Part 1)**  
**Mark 12:29-34**

**INTRODUCTION:**

**A. As Believers we are commanded to love God supremely, which is the first commandment** – to “Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, with all thy mind and with all thy strength” (Mark 12:30).

**“All” emphasizes the important nature of how we are to love the Word of God.**

It speaks of total submission and dedication, wholeheartedly (completely, sincere, energetic) love for God. We are to love God with our entire being. Our love for God is to be ahead of anyone or anything else in this world.

- “O love the Lord, all ye his saints: for the Lord preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer” (Ps 31:23).
  
- “Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life” (Jude 21).

**B. The Believer who loves God supremely is the person who fully trusts and obeys God in every aspect of his/her life.** It is the idea of total commitment, respect, loyalty and surrender to God.

**In Part 1 of this lesson, we will examine four ways in which Believers can express (make known) their love for God.**

**I. GOD FIRST LOVED US (1 John 4:19)**

- “We love him, because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19).

**A. We love God because He first loved us.**

God’s love made the first move; our love for God is a response to His love for us.

**B. God loves us and we have seen His love. Therefore, we love Him.**

**C. We know that we love God because we love “one another” and “our brother” (1 John 4:7-8, 11, 17, 19-20).**

- “God’s love is: Spontaneous in its **Source**; Universal in **Scope**; Long-suffering in **Intensity**; Self-sacrificing in **Character**; Aggressive in **Action**; and Constant in **Duration**.” – W. Griffith-Thomas
  
- Loved with everlasting love, led by Grace that love to know Spirit, breathing from above, thou hast taught me it is so. - Robinson

**II. GOD SENT JESUS TO BE OUR SAVIOR (John 3:16; 1 John 2:2; 4:10, 14)**

- “And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world” (1 John 2:2).

- “<sup>10</sup>Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world (1 John 4:10, 14).

**A. Believers love God because of God’s love for them.**

God sent His Son, Jesus Christ to be “the propitiation for our sins.”

- **Propitiation** means satisfaction, atoning sacrifice.
- Christ died for us. He freed us from the guilt and penalty of our sins and restored us to God by providing the needed satisfaction and by removing every barrier to godly fellowship.

**B. Christ was sent to earth to die for our Sins.**

His death was not an accident – It was a divine appointment (1 John 4:14).

- “Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain” (Acts 2:23).
- “For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done” (Acts 4:28).
- (cf. Rom 3:25; 5:8; Eph 1:7; 1 Pet 2:24; 3:18)

**C. Christ is “the Savior of the world.”**

He is the only means of Salvation – Sins forgiven and Heaven is our home.

- “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).
- “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Tim 2:5).
- According to W.A. Criswell, “Christ’s death satisfies the just demands of God’s holy judgment against sin. Thus Christ does not simply represent Believers before God. He provides the grounds for their forgiveness. God’s love us the ultimate source of Christ’s work.”

**III. GIVING PRAISES TO GOD**

Praising the Lord is a declaration of who God is, what He has done, and what He has promised to do.

**Ways To Praise The Lord:**

**A. By Directly Praying to Him**

This involves talking to God about everything. It is asking God’s favor for yourself and others, confession of sin in one’s life and giving thanks for the great things God has done in your life.

**B. Praise God for His Plan of Salvation**

**C. Praise God for His Election, Sanctification, Adoption, Grace, Redemption through the Blood of Christ, Forgiveness, Gifts of Wisdom and Understanding and His Plan for the Future (Eph 1:3-10).**

**God is Worthy of Our Praise:**

- “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Chron 16:25).
- “For the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods” (Ps 96:4).
- “Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable” (Ps 145:3).

**Praise Him! Praise Him**

Praise him, praise him! Jesus, our blessed redeemer!  
For our sins, he suffered, and bled, and died.  
He our rock, our hope of eternal salvation,  
hail him, hail him! Jesus, the crucified.  
Sound his praises, Jesus who bore our sorrows,  
love unbounded, wonderful, deep, and strong.

Praise him! Praise him! tell of his excellent greatness.  
Praise him! Praise him! ever in joyful song.

- “To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.” – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- “In our prayers, we talk to God, in our Bible Study, God talks to us and we had better let God do most of the talking.” – D.L. Moody

**IV. STUDYING THE BIBLE**

**A. The Believer expresses love for God by reading, studying, meditating, memorizing and obeying the Bible – The Word of God.**

**B. Christ is the Central Figure of the Bible**

The Old Testament prophesied His coming and the New Testament describes His coming and His work to bring Salvation to sinful mankind.

**C. The Bible Was Written for Our Learning**

- “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope” (Rom 15:4).
- **The Bible**  
Majestic, eternal, immutable BOOK, Inspired, inerrant, complete.  
The Light of my path as I walk on life's way, The Guide and the Lamp to my feet.  
Its writings are holy and verbally true, The unalterable Statute of Light,

For profit, for doctrine, for correction, reproof, Infallible Guide to the right.  
My Treasure, my Comfort, my Help, and my Stay, Incomparable Measure and Rod,  
Each page is replete with its textual proof, The Bible, the exact WORD OF GOD!  
(By Gertrude Grace Sanborn)

- According to Charles Spurgeon, “A Bible that is falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn’t.”

**D. Why Study the Bible:**

1. So that the Believer can distinguish truth from error (false teaching).
2. It tells us how to get to Heaven and provides a glimpse of Heaven.
3. It equips us to serve God.
4. It teaches us how to be successful in life.

- “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Ps 119:105).

**CONCLUSION:**

**A. We can express our love to God by realizing that: God First Loved Us, God Sent Jesus to be Our Savior, Giving Praises to God, and Studying the Bible (The Word of God).**

**B. How well is your love for God? Is your love for God all it should be? Do you love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and your neighbor as yourself? (Mark 12:30-31)**

**C. O How I Love Jesus**

O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus,  
O how I love Jesus, because He first loved me!

**D. Romans Road (Rom 3:10, 23; 5:8; 10:9, 13)**



From the Teaching Ministry of:  
Pastor Carl Bennett  
Corinth Christian Fellowship  
June 12, 2024

“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).