

The Love Of Jesus

Intro: We cannot have the love of Jesus in our hearts unless we love the things that Jesus loved. We must study the Scriptures to ascertain exactly what our Lord loved and adored. When we learn these things then we will know the love of Jesus. This will have substance and not simply pseudo-feelings as its basis. Far too many religionists today try to define the love of Jesus on their own terms instead of allowing God's Word to influence their thinking. In this lesson, let us look from a Biblical standpoint at the love of Jesus.

I. CHRIST LOVED HIS ENEMIES.

A. Jesus demonstrated his love toward his enemies.

1. By His teaching.
 - a. Mat. 5:43-44 ⁴³Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. ⁴⁴But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;"
 - b. Luke 6:27-28 ²⁷But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, ²⁸Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you."
 - c. Luke 6:35 ³⁵But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil."
2. By not retaliating.
 - a. Isa. 53:7 ⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth."
 - b. Luke 23:34 ³⁴Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots."
 - c. 1 Pet. 2:23 ²³Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:"
3. By the cross.
 - a. John 15:13 ¹³Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."
 - b. Rom. 5:8-10 ⁸But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. ¹⁰For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life."
 - c. John 10:11, 15, 18 ¹¹I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep....
¹⁵As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep....
¹⁸No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father."

B. We must allow the ethics of Christ to penetrate our conduct.

1. Heb. 12:3 ³For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."
2. We must not retaliate against those who wrong us.
 - a. Pro. 20:22 ²²Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the LORD, and he shall save thee."
 - b. Rom. 12:17 ¹⁷Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men."
 - c. 1 The. 5:15 ¹⁵See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men."

3. We must do good to those who are our enemies.
 - a. Doing good to them.
 - (1) Rom. 12:14 ¹⁴ "Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not."
 - (2) Rom. 12:19-21 ¹⁹ "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. ²¹ Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."
 - (3) 1 Pet. 3:9 ⁹ "Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing."
 - b. Teaching God's Word to them.
 - (1) Jesus died to save those who were His enemies.
 - (2) Mark 16:15 ¹⁵ "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

II. CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH.

A. He died for the church.

1. Acts 20:28 ²⁸ "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."
2. Eph. 5:25-27 ²⁵ "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; ²⁶ That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

B. We must have a love for the church, that for which Jesus died.

1. Mat. 6:33 ³³ "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."
2. Do we have the type love for church that we will give ourselves for it?
 - a. Do we give of our time?
 - b. Do we give of our money?
 - c. Do we have the type love that we will give our lives for the cause of the church?
 - d. Do we have the type love that wants to be with our brethren?
 - (1) Attending all the services of the church.
 - (2) Other times when we have the opportunity to be with Christians (get-togethers, etc.).
 - e. Do we talk up the church, or in our speech degrade the church?
 - f. Do we treat the church as though God made a mistake in allowing the church to be established? cf., Mat. 16:18 ¹⁸ "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

III. CHRIST LOVED THE SCRIPTURES.

A. Christ boldly used the Scriptures.

1. Jesus made the Scriptures a part of His life.
2. In His preaching and teaching.
 - a. Notice the sermon on the mount; the times He referred to the Law of Moses.
 - b. Luke 10:25-26 ²⁵ "And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? ²⁶ He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?"
3. To resist temptation; Mat. 4:1-11 ¹ "Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. ² And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. ³ And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these

stones be made bread. ⁴ But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. ⁵ Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. ⁷ Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. ⁸ Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; ⁹ And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. ¹⁰ Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. ¹¹ Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.”

4. To rebuke others.

a. Mat. 22:31-32 ³¹ But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, ³² I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.”

b. Rebuking those who questioned his eating with sinners; Mat. 9:12-13 ¹² But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. ¹³ But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

5. Rebuked others for not knowing the Scriptures.

a. John 5:39-40 ³⁹ Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. ⁴⁰ And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.”

b. In His rebuke of the Sadducees; Mat. 22:29 ²⁹ Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.”

B. We must learn to love the Scriptures.

1. Psa. 119:48, 97, 113, 163 ⁴⁸ My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes.... ⁹⁷ O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.... ¹¹³ I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I love.... ¹⁶³ I hate and abhor lying; but thy law do I love.”

2. This means we will spend time with the Scriptures.

a. 2 Tim. 2:15 ¹⁵ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

b. 2 Pet. 3:18 ¹⁸ But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”

3. We will make the Scriptures a part of our life.

IV. CHRIST LOVED THE SOULS OF MEN.

A. Christ loved people's souls.

1. Luke 19:10 ¹⁰ For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

2. So much He would leave heaven's home to come to earth.

a. Phi. 2:6-8 ⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

b. Heb. 12:2-3 ² Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.”

3. So much He would die upon the cross for sinful mankind.

a. 1 Tim. 2:6 ⁶ Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”

b. 2 Cor. 5:15 ¹⁵ And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.”

- c. Heb. 2:9 ^{“9} But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”
- 4. Even when they rejected Him, he loved them anyway.
 - a. The rich young ruler; Mark 10:21 ^{“21} Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.”
 - b. The city of Jerusalem.
 - (1) Luke 19:41 ^{“41} And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it,”
 - (2) Mat. 23:37 ^{“37} O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!”

B. We must learn to love the souls of men.

- 1. Pro. 11:30 ^{“30} The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.”
- 2. We will, thus, preach the Gospel to them.
 - a. Mark 16:15 ^{“15} And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”
 - b. 1 Cor. 1:23 ^{“23} But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;”
 - c. 2 Tim. 4:2 ^{“2} Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”

Conclusion: Do we love like our Lord did? If not, then how can we claim to have the love of Jesus in our hearts?