

## “Anyone who loves God, is known by God”

Lord Jesus, grant me your Spirit that I would proclaim your word in Truth and Power and that all who listen would hear what you have to say to them. To the glory of the heavenly Father. Amen.

“If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.” 1 Cor. 8:2&3

Do you Love God? Seriously, ask yourself, take a moment, examine your heart. Do you love God? I’m not asking if you believe in Him. It is not the same thing. Do you LOVE God?

short pause

The question may not seem really big to you. Sort of well of course I do. Is that how you love? Is that how you would like to be loved? A lot of folks do not feel very loved, never have felt very loved, tolerated at best. Do you tolerate God? Does He tolerate you?

Do You Love God?

pause

How can you really know? It depends on the day, how it has been. There are a lot of times we would have a hard time saying we really loved ourselves.

Do You Love God?

God made clear the greatest commandment is “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind”.

If you put it that way, have to admit that is another of the commandments I’ve broken. Love you wife, love your children, mother, friends, love our country, love the Ravens, well if they were in the Super Bowl.

“Anyone who loves God, is known by God.” We know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. . . . if anyone loves God, he is known by God.”

I would suppose the most important thing to know is to know that you are loved by God, passionately loved by God. Beloved of God, precious to your Father in heaven. I have known some terrible people

who knew Jesus was the Savior. I'm not sure they loved Jesus, maybe they did not know how deeply Jesus loved them.

If you love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, I would think it would be hard to be a terrible person. To know that you are passionately loved by God. We are so used to hearing about Jesus taking our sins and dying on the cross, it hardly slows down as goes in one ear and out the other.

I am sure you have said to someone "I love you" and you really meant it. Only to see it bounce off. You might realize those words have bounced off your heart a few times too.

Do you Love God? Soak in a hot tub, lay on the beach in the sun. Soak in, be immersed in the Love of God. The passionate love of your Father, your forever Father, eternal Father, who birthed you, selected all your features, placed you where you live, with the people you live with, designed you: for love, to be filled with His love, to live in His almighty love forever, peace, joy, delight, celebration. Designed you to give love: rich, full, flowing out, His love as you have been loved.

To be loved changes us, transforms us. To be filled up, overflowing with love, bursts out, you want to

pass it on. When you are filled with love, you notice folk that look like they need love. You care. You want them to be loved too. You love them. That is God's idea, His will for you is to pass His love on. It is not always easy, not even welcome, give love - be ignored, rejected. God knows what that is like. He loved us, we killed His only begotten Son. We would have too, if we had been there. Never imagine you would have been with His mother at the foot of the cross.

In Corinth there was disagreement about how to Christians were to act around each other. Paul was writing that is was acting in love not acting on knowledge that mattered. Knowledge causes arguments. Love does not.

Perfect love has awesome power. Jesus loved perfectly. Experience the power of perfect love, healing, demons driven out, the eyes of the blind opened. Image seeing Jesus heal, watch passionate love.

Do you love God? Do you love God with the same passion that you are loved by Him? Inconceivable! Would you like to love Him more? Would you like to grow in love? Passionate, eternal, drenched in love forever? That is heaven.

You will be changed. You will look at yourself with new eyes. Look at your hand. It is a holy hand, the hand of a holy saint of God, what it does is holy work,

it's touch is filled with love. How can a holy hand cause hurt?

Ok, how do we love God? How do we grow in His love? Telling Him you love Him is a big part of that. "I love you Jesus." Say it:"I love you Jesus." Feel good to say? Think He likes to hear that? Would like to hear you say that a lot? Say it again: "I love you Jesus." The more we tell God we love Him, sing Him songs, worship, the easier it is to realize He love us. Listen Jesus is calling your name. I love you Jackie. I love you John. I love you N. Listen He is calling you by name, telling you He loves you.

You could pray "I Love you Jesus". Repeat it after me. "I love you Jesus." I expect He like to hear us say that. The more often the better.

Another way of saying I love you God is in the words of Psalm 111 take out your hymnbooks and turn to page 344, Ps 111.

I Love you Jesus. Do you really really love Him with all your heart all your mind all your soul? I have to admit I talk a better game then I play. I pray God would fill me with the spirit of His love so that it overflows. I

expect you pray the same. In a moment the Praise Band will lead us in the Hymn "Pass It On". May the Lord bless us to pass His love on.

God has given you peace that passes all understanding, your life, all you have are held in His hands, your hearts and minds are kept in Christ Jesus Amen.

#### **4 Epiphany**

Deut. 18:15-20

I Cor. 8:1-13

Feb 1, 2015

Feb 22, 2015

Hymns

Psalm 111

Mark 1:21-28

Living Water Rosedale

Berea, Baltimore