

"How to Love God"

Matthew 22:37-40

INTRODUCTION. The one very most valuable thing in the human experience is to have A GENUINE, PERSONAL, INTIMATE, ETERNAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ONE TRUE AND LIVING GOD. This is clearly born out in Scripture and can be captured in four basic descriptions:

- (1) The Great Conversion—i.e. how to KNOW GOD
- (2) The Great Commandment—i.e. how to LOVE GOD
- (3) The Great Confession—i.e. how to FOLLOW GOD
- (4) The Great Commission—i.e. how to SERVE GOD

In this message we consider the second of these four descriptions: HOW TO LOVE GOD. We can never love God without obeying Him. The young lawyer asked Jesus, "What must I do to inherit eternal life? (Luke 10:25). Jesus answers with the "Great Commandment."

- I. Loving God is EXPECTED of true believers (v.37a)
 - A. Because of WHO HE IS TO US. (cf. I Corinthians 15:1-5)
 - B. Because of WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR US. (cf. John 3:16)
 - C. Because of WHAT HE WILL DO FOR US. (cf. John 14:3)

- II. Loving God is EVIDENCED by true believers (v.38)
 - A. ...seen in our ATTITUDES (v.37b)
 - B. ...seen in our ACTIONS (Mark 12:30)
 1. Do what He DICTATES—WORDS (John 14:21)
 2. Do what HE DOES—WAYS (John 17:26)
 3. Do what He DESIRES—WORSHIP (John 4:23)

- III. Loving God is EXTENDED through true believers (v.39)
 - A. ...to OTHER BELIEVERS (John 13:34-35)
 - B. ...to UNBELIEVERS (v.39a)

CONCLUSION. Loving God is expected of us. It is heard in our words and seen in our actions. It should be constantly extended to others around us whether believers or unbelievers. — rrc