

TEXT- 1 Jn 2:3-6 *And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his*

INTRO – It is possible to do a good job in our ministry and be far from God. Your first priority is to meditate on Christ. Make time each day to dwell on Him. Consider who He is, what He has done, and what He is doing for you.

In 1 John 4:19 the Bible says, "*We love Him because He first loved us.*" It shows that His love is the incentive, the motive, and moral cause of our love. God so loved us to this degree that He sent Jesus to die for our sins. Because of this great love, we are naturally moved to love Him, our fellow brethren, and the whole lost world in return. **So how do we show our love for God and Jesus?** The New Testament tells us a number of ways...

I. We show our love for God by obeying Him!

John 14:15 *If ye love me, keep my commandments.* Later in the discourse, He said to them, **John 14:21** *He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.*

He promised blessings to those who love Him and keep His commandments. He said, if we love Him the Father will love us, and He will love us and manifest Himself to us. John tied together love for God and obedience. He wrote, **1 Jn 2:3-6** *And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. 6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.*

In these verses, we can clearly see that we show our love for God by obeying Him. This also means that if we do NOT keep His commandments, we do NOT really love Him. Disobedience shows a lack of love.

II. We show our love for God by putting Him first!

When asked on one occasion what the greatest commandment was, Jesus answered . . . *Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.* -- Mat 22:37-40

This demands that He be first in our life. Mat 10:37-39 *He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. 39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it*

Paul wrote, **Col 1:18** *And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*

1 Jn 2:15 *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

If we prefer the world (or anything in the world) above Him, that a true love for God is not there. Love for God and Jesus means that they must be a priority in our lives. They must come first.

III. We show our love for God by loving the brethren!

On the same occasion that Jesus taught His disciples to keep His commandments He told them how important loving one another is.

John 13:34-35 *A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

1 Jn 4:20-21 *If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? 21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.*

We show God how much we love Him by preferring to be with others of a like precious faith.

Php 3:13-17 *Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. 16 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing. 17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.*

IV. We show our love for God by telling others about Him!

If you love someone, you want others to know about him or her

He who truly loves his wife, will want others to know about her. He wears a ring and puts her upon a pedestal. Such is also true if we love God.

Acts 8:4 *Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.*

2 Co 5:14 *For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:*

2 Co 5:11 *Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.*

Even after being threatened and commanded not to speak Peter and John told the Jewish leaders, “we cannot but speak the things we have seen and heard” **Acts 4:20.** They surely remember the words of Jesus when He said, “Therefore, whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven”

Mat 10:32-33 *Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. 33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.*

Acts 5:29 *Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.*

V. We show our love for God by loving Him!

The point here is that when we act because we AGAPAO God, in time it will lead to a relationship, or a sense and emotion that is much deeper than merely obeying. Agape love will lead to Phileo love for God.

1 Jn 4:16-19 *And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us.*

CONCL –

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. -- James 1:12. In these verses we see the reward we have if we truly love God as we ought to.