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## Do You Really Love Jesus?

1. Jesus told us in John 14:15: "***If ye love me, keep my commandments.***" What did Jesus mean by keep? It comes from the Greek word tereo (tay-reh-o): to guard, as to prevent from loss (from one's mind or heart in this case); to prevent escaping (as to have in one's heart, and allow to become unimportant); to fulfill, obey, or to carry out; to do as one is told. If a person truly loves Jesus, they will have a desire to keep the commandments of God.

2. We read in 1 John 5:3: "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. Greek-barus (bar-ooce): weighty, burdensome, or hard to carry out. We are told here once again, that if we love God, we will keep his commandments; and we are told that his commandments are not grievous to keep. God does not put upon us, commandments which are hard to obey.

3. Micah 6:8 tells us: "He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

A. Justly-Hebrew-mishpat (mish-pawt): favorable (in the sight of God); lawful (according to God's law-his Holy Word). God requires us to obey his Holy Word; and we will choose to do so, if we really have his love in our heart.

B. And to love mercy. Hebrew-cheched (kheh-sed): kindness, piety, or loving care.

C. To walk humbly with thy God. Hebrew-tsana (tsah-nah): lowly, with a humble and obedient spirit.

4. Jesus told us in Matt. 11:29-30: "***Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.***" God is not hard on his people. He does not load them down with burdens which are hard to carry. Neither does He give us commandments which are impossible to keep. His commandments are easy to carry out, and if we really love Him, we will have a desire to obey his commandments, or his Holy Word.

5. If we are going to obey his commandments, or his Holy Word, we must

know what his Holy Word says. How can we do this, if we never read his Word? Some people who claim to be Christians, never read the Word of God. They rarely ever pick up the Bible, except to carry it to church on Sunday. And that's about all the reading they ever do; is read it after the pastor, or the Sunday School teacher. Something is wrong somewhere! A child of God should always have a desire for his Word. 2 Tim. 2:15 tells us: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth."

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A. A person who is going to be much of a minister, or a witness for Christ, must put his mind to the work in which he is to carry out. A good workman, must know about the work he is attempting to do. How is he to achieve it, unless he studies the directions that go with his work? The same is true of a person who is attempting to do the work of God. They must read and study the Bible.

B. A person is to rightly divide the Word of truth. This means that we must rightly interpret the Word, so as to apply it correctly; or to preach it where it is needed; or to be sure we teach the Word accordingly in different situations; or apply the correct message of the Word, to the appropriate situation which may arise.

6. Jesus also told us in 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.***"

A. Jesus tells us once again, that if we love Him, we will keep his commandments. As was told earlier, to keep his commandments, means to obey them; to live by them every day. If we really love Jesus, we will not only know his commandments, but we will obey them; all the time. He told us that if we do so, we will also be loved by the Heavenly Father.

B. Jesus also tells us that He will love us, and will manifest Himself to us. Greek-emphanizo (em-pan-id-zo): to exhibit, disclose, appear, or to show (oneself); to become apparent unto another.

7. A little further down, in John 14:23, we read: "Jesus answered and said unto him, ***If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.***" Greek-mone (mon-ay): residence, as to live within continuously (by the Holy Spirit).

8. John 15:10 also tells us: "***If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments,***

*and abide in his love.*” Greek-meno (men-o): to stay, or to abide in a given place; to remain with continuously. The main thought which has been within every scripture which we have covered so far, is obedience to God’s commandments; as an evidence of our love for Him. The fact is, if we really love Jesus, we will be obedient unto his Word, and live like He does. We cannot say that we love Jesus, and live in every ungodly manner known to mankind.

9. So many people claim to love Jesus, and never take a look at his holy Word; and they never attend a church service; they really know absolutely nothing about Jesus; other than what they hear from other people. Love is something which is occupied with action; not a matter which is just talked about all the time. Jesus told us in Matt. 22:37, that ***Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.***” When we have this kind of love in our hearts and minds, our actions will show it. It will not just be talked about all the time.

Jesus told us in the gospel of John, about those who would not believe his words, and who would not receive Him as the Son of God. He said in John 5:42: ***“But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.”*** Those who would not believe the words that Jesus tried to teach them, had nothing to do with the love of God.

10. Most of what we have discussed thus far, concerning our love for Jesus, is how well we keep his commandments. One of the greatest commandments that Jesus ever spoke, was that we love one another. In John 13:34-35 we read: ***“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”*** Why did Jesus command us to love one another? He done so, because we are to be examples of Jesus unto the world. How can we ever prove that we love God, if we cannot even love one another? With the bitterness which is seen in so many Christians, how can we ever expect to convince the world, that God is love? Jesus commanded us to love one another; and until Christians begin to show love one for another, we are not going to have much close fellowship with the Heavenly Father. Are you looking for a closer walk with Jesus? Then you must begin to start showing love for your brothers and sisters in Christ; as well as for those of the world. We act like we love one another when we are in the church house on Sunday; but how do we act when we get outside? Or on Monday in the grocery store, when someone accidentally bumps into our grocery cart? There are so many ways in which Christians can and must start showing our love one for another, if we are going to be very pleasing to Jesus. People do not

realize how much they disgrace the name of Jesus, by being a hypocrite. The world is watching every move we make as a Christian; and we need to begin to let our moves be in love, if we really love Jesus.

11. The complete Word of God, is a book of his holy commandments; from Genesis to Revelations. And may we be continuously reminded of what Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commandments." Another way in which we show our love for Jesus, is by supporting his holy work. How many of us honestly give what God requires us to give, of our finances? Let us read in the book of Malachi, chapter 3, verses 7-12: "Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return? Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of Heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground, neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of hosts." Many of us say that we love Jesus, but when it comes to our wallet, how much do we really love Him? How many of us would dare have to miss our car or house payment, in order to be obedient to God, and pay our tithes first? He tells us how blessed we will be, if we will only be faithful unto Him in the giving of our tithes and offerings.

But yet there are still many Christians who will throw in a one dollar bill or two on Sunday morning, and try to feel as though they have been obedient unto God. They have not been obedient to God; but they have allowed the devil to talk them out of receiving one of the greatest blessings that God has for them. Is this the way to show love for Jesus? Not at all.

12. One other commandment which God gave us in his holy Word, was to "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy." How many people will take even a few hours on Sunday, to go to the house of God; and give Him the praise, and the worship that He deserves? Very few. We are told in Heb. 10:24-25: "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

A. *Provoke* unto love and to good works. Greek-paroxusmos (par-ox-oos-mos): to entice, or to influence (to love and to do good), or to encourage (to love and to do good).

B. *Exhorting* one another. Greek-parakaleo (par-ak-al-eh-o): to call together, or to invite for a certain purpose (in this case, to praise and worship the Lord God; with hope of his promised second coming). God's people need one another. What better place can we find to meet and encourage one another, than in the house of God? God tells us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together. He tells us to do it the much more, as we see the time of his return to the earth approaching. How many of us really make an effort to go to the house of God on the Sabbath Day? How many of us make the effort to attend every service, whether it be day or night? How many of us are afraid we will miss our favorite television show, if we go to church on Sunday night? Or how many of us are afraid we can't get up for work on Monday morning, if we go to church on Sunday night? We manage to make it all the other days of the week. Why should going to church on Sunday night cause things to be any different? The truth is, for many of us, we just don't want to go on Sunday night. We do not love Jesus that much. Let us just be honest, and tell it like it is. How many of us do not love Jesus enough to go to church at all on Sunday, or any other time? We had rather be out on the lake; in our fishing boat. It's seems like more fun. Or up in the mountains riding our four-wheeler. Jesus loves for us to have fun. And He has given us plenty of time to have it; without taking away the time that is rightfully due unto Him. Do we really love Jesus, or do we not? It's time to get honest with ourselves, and with God. One of the other commandments we remember here, is recorded in Ex. 20:3: "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." We so many times think of a statue of a heathen god, when we read this commandment. But the truth is, anything which we place more important to our heart than God, is an idol god. To so many people, their boat is their god, or their new television, or their new car, or any thing which they find more important than God. The truth is, if we really love Jesus, He will be more important to us, than anyone else, or anything else. Let us never forget, that He is the creator of all things; and He can destroy it, just as fast as He created it.

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13. We must also discuss another very important matter, concerning the evidence of our love for Jesus. That is, we must be an example of Jesus all the time; everyday; everywhere we go. People must be able to see, and to feel, the love of Jesus in us.

We cannot act like Jesus one day, and act like the devil the next day. Jesus never changes. God's Word tells us in Heb. 13:8: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever." Christians are to be a light unto the world. We read in John 8:12: "***Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.***" He also told us in John 12:35: "***Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.***" And we read in Matt. 5:14: "***Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.***" And Matt. 5:16 also tells us: "***Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven.***" While Jesus was in the world, He was a shining light unto everyone that saw Him. Now that He is gone back to Heaven, it is the responsibility of every Christian, to be a light; burning night and day. If we really love Jesus, our light will be burning all the time. His love will flow through us constantly. How much do you really love Jesus?

**Conclusion:**

We are commanded in God's Word, to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. If we really love Jesus, we will work hard to keep his commandments, all the time. Our lives will be the same everyday. We will be faithful to God in our giving of our tithes and offerings, in our regular church attendance, in giving Him first place in our lives, and we will love one another; and shine as a bright light unto the world around us, every day.

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