





Loving God:

Rejoicing in Serving Him




Definition of Loving God

- To love God is to self-sacrificially commit oneself
- to delight in Him,
- **to rejoice in serving Him,**
- to desire continually to please Him,
- to seek one's happiness in Him, and
- to thirst day and night for a fuller enjoyment of Him.




Service: An Inescapable Reality

- **Matthew 6:24** No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.
- **Romans 6:16** Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?



Relationship of Love & Service


- **Exodus 21:2-6** "If you buy a Hebrew slave, he shall serve for six years; but on the seventh he shall go out as a free man without payment.
 - 3 "If he comes alone, he shall go out alone; if he is the husband of a wife, then his wife shall go out with him.
 - 4 "If his master gives him a wife, and she bears him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall belong to her master, and he shall go out alone.



Relationship of Love & Service

5 "But if the slave plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife and my children; I will not go out as a free man,'
 6 then his master shall bring him to the door or the doorpost. And his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him permanently.

- **Love motivates service.**



Relationship of Love & Service

- Key OT Passages linking love and service
 - **Deut. 10:12** Now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,

Relationship of Love & Service



- Deut. 11:13 And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul,

Relationship of Love & Service



- Josh. 22:5 Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to love the LORD your God and walk in all His ways and keep His commandments and hold fast to Him and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Service: An Expression of Love



- Love expresses itself in service.
 - Love for God expresses itself in service to God
 - Implication: Service is an essential expression of God's nature, for God is love.

Service: An Expression of Love



- Jesus demonstrates that service is a natural expression of love
 - Luke 12:36 "Be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that they may immediately open *the door to him when he comes and knocks.*

Service: An Expression of Love



- ³⁷ "Blessed are those slaves whom the master will find on the alert when he comes; truly I say to you, that he will gird himself to serve, and have them recline at the table, and will come up and wait on them.
- ³⁸ "Whether he comes in the second watch, or even in the third, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

The Realm of our Service



- Colossians 3:22-25
 - 22 Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.
 - 23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,

The Realm of our Service



24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

25 For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.

- **All of life is service.**

The Trademarks of Loving Service



- **Whole-hearted**

- “serve Him with all your heart” Deut. 11:13
- Whole-hearted service is prompt, cheerfully obedient service.

- **Whole-souled**

- “with all your soul” Deut. 11:13
- Whole-souled service means we put our entire being into our obedience.

The Trademarks of Loving Service



- **In Contentment**

- **Philippians 4:11** Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.
- 12 I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; ...

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- ... in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.
- 13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

The Trademarks of Loving Service



- **Contentment:** the satisfaction that comes from knowing that God is sovereign over my circumstances and is giving me what is best for me.

The Trademarks of Loving Service



- **God-focused**

- **Ephesians 6:5** Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ;
- **6** not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

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- 7 With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men,
- 8 knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.

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• With Gladness

- Psalm 100:2 Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing.
- Deut. 28:47-48 Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and a glad heart, for the abundance of all things;

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- ... therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the LORD shall send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in the lack of all things; and He will put an iron yoke on your neck until He has destroyed you.”

The Trademarks of Loving Service



- **Whole-hearted**
- **Whole-souled**
- **In Contentment**
- **God-focused**
- **With Gladness**

The Reasons for Glad Service



- Abundance of God’s blessings (Deut. 28:47)
- Gratitude for Redemption (as the love slave; Rom. 6:22)
- Anticipation of Reward (Col. 3:24)
- To bring glory to God (1 Peter 4:11)

The Reasons for Glad Service



- To bring glory to God
 - **1 Peter 4:10** As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
 - 11 Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; ...

The Reasons for Glad Service



– ... so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.