

Study Guide – “Love songs III”, from 2-18-2018

Warming Up

Intimate relationships are often difficult to figure out. Pastor Baugh started off with some photos of bad Valentine’s gifts. Have you ever got “love all wrong” by giving a gift that you later regretted giving? What were you thinking? Share.

Takeaway # 1 – Love Languages

When couples study Gary Chapman’s five love languages, they often realize that they have been expecting their spouse to love them the way that they want to be loved. Look at this list: Gifts, Physical Touch, Words of Affirmation, Acts of Service, and Quality Time. Ask yourself what “love” language(s) is (are) are your preferred ones, and which are the ones that your spouse looks for. Share your two lists.

Now, forget about yourself and ask yourself if you have been sending the love signal to your spouse that means love to her. You might be surprised.

What is the first thing you think about when you consider what means “love” to God as it is received from his children?

Takeaway # 2 – Obedience

Obedience in a child is a beautiful thing to see. It displays 100% trust that the parent is right and wants the best for them. Have you ever seen a parent who refuses to deal with disobedience because he or she “loves” the child too much to chastise him or her? Share.

Have you ever seen a parent is so harsh and cruel that the child lives in fear and torment?

Realizing that love and obedience are intertwined may be a difficult concept to accept because parents and the “world” often disassociate them or combine them incorrectly. To many, the statement that Jesus made in John 14:21 is shocking. “He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me.” Maybe we’re talking to Jesus in the wrong love language!

What do you think about the truth that Jesus receives love by having his children obey all that He has said? Discuss.

1 John 2:15-17 reads, “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” What are some seemingly innocent “loves of the world” that distract us from doing the will of God 100%?

Re-read, 2 Timothy 4:3-4 “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for

themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.” What are some “fables” that the world, or the church, have turned aside to which contradict “sound doctrine”? Why do people have “itching ears” to embrace practices that oppose God’s word? Discuss.

Pastor Baugh said, “You can’t be obedient unless it’s something you don’t want to do.” My personal challenge here is, “Turn the other cheek.” Are there any commands that God gives in His word that your flesh really doesn’t want to do? Are you willing to surrender to God’s will as Jesus did unto death on the cruel cross? (Luke 22:42)

Are you willing to sacrifice what you want to do to prove to God that you truly love Him? How can you overcome these particular, personal challenges? Discuss.

Pastor Baugh shared this quote, “The cost of obedience is nothing compared to the cost of disobedience.” What could cost you more than having God think that you don’t love Him? And what is the solution when we fail at showing perfect love?

Takeaway # 3 – Love

1 John 4:18-19 reads, “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.”

Perhaps the Apostle Peter was afraid that Jesus would not know how much he loved Him, so he continually tried to prove his love, often by impulsive actions and promises. John did not strive to prove his love to Jesus because he understood that Jesus loved him. He was secure with that, and had nothing to prove. Which would you rather be? Which are you? Is it better to try to prove your love, or just rest in being loved already? Discuss.

Many people are accustomed to proving their faithfulness or love by “doing things” that appear to confirm it. How much more peaceful would life be if we could truly embrace what John said above when he spoke this truth, “We love Him because He first loved us”?

Do you have trouble accepting that before you made any motion of faith or love towards your Savior, He already loved you? Do you believe that?

Conclusion

You might say, “But what if Jesus didn’t love me first?” Do you believe that the Father sent His only begotten Son to the cross to die for your sins? If you have the faith to believe that, He loved you first! Rejoice. Rest in His love. Love him back by doing what He says without question or doubt. Trust Him as the loving Father that He is – always right, always wanting the best for you.