

# If You Love Me!

John 14:15 (KJV) If ye love me, keep my commandments.

John 14:15 (NASB 2020) "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

- The KJV uses an imperative: "keep my commandments" — it's a directive.
- The NASB uses a future indicative: "you will keep my commandments" — it's predictive or descriptive.

Both convey a connection between **love and obedience**, but they frame it **differently**—one as a **command**, the other as a **result**.

Does God need to know that you love Him? God is not saying, "Ah, look, they don't love me, see, they are not keeping my commandment."

## I. Peter, do you love me?

John 21:15- 17 (NASB 2020) He \*said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was hurt because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus \*said to him, "Tend My sheep.

Why is this recorded? In Matthew 26?

Matthew 26:34-36 (NLT) Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, Peter—this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me." "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" All the disciples said the same thing as well.

Matthew 26:74 (NLT) Peter swore, "A curse on me if I'm lying—I don't know the man!" And immediately the rooster crowed.

Jesus already knew Peter would deny Him! This qualifier of "if you love Me, you will obey Him" is not for God, it's for us?

1 John 2:3-6 (NASB 2020) By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever follows His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected.

Know: g1097. γινώσκω ginōskō; a prolonged form of a primary verb; to "know" (absolutely) in a great variety of applications and with many implications. Jewish idiom for sexual intercourse between a man and a woman.

We all want to think that our love and fidelity to God are Strong, just like Peter did! But here is the Question!

What comes about in our lives that causes us to deny Jesus? Are we willing to love Jesus at all costs?

Haggai 1:4 "Why are you living in luxurious houses while My house lies in ruins?"

## II. The idea that one's love for God is demonstrated through obedience is a central theme throughout the Bible.

### A. Jesus outright says

Mark 12:29-30 (NASB 2020) Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'HEAR, ISRAEL! THE LORD IS OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE; AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.'

This is a direct quote from Deuteronomy 6:5

John 14:21 (NKJV) He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

John 14:23 (NKJV) Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

John 15:10 (ESV) If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

Love is only known by the action it prompts!

### B. Other Biblical References

1 John 5:2 (ESV) By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey His commandments.

2 John 1:6 (NASB 2020) And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments.

Again, it's not God's love for us that is in question here; it's ours for Him!

## It's a heart test!

**Jeremiah 17:9-10 (NASB 2020)** *"The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, To give to each person according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds."*

What can challenge our own heart? Or, what can bring accountability to our actions?

### III. What is he commanding us to do?

**1 John 5:2-3 (ESV)** *By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.*

#### 1. Love and Believe in Christ

**Mark 12:29-31 (NASB 2020)** *Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'HEAR, ISRAEL! THE LORD IS OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE; AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.' The second is this: 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' There is no other commandment greater than these."*

**John 13:34-35 (NASB 2020)** *I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples: if you have love for one another."*

**John 6:28-29 (ESV)** *Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."*

**John 14:12 (NASB 2020)** *Truly, truly I say to you, the one who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I am going to the Father.*

#### 2. Devotion

**Romans 12:1-2 (NASB 2020)** *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Do not let the Word dictate what your devotion to God should look like!

**The Word, Fellowship, and Prayer – Acts 2:42 (NASB 2020)** *They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

**Proverbs 4:20-23 (NASB 2020)** *My son, pay attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. They are not to escape from your sight; Keep them in the midst of your heart. **For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their body.** Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.*