

Love That Serves God

Examining Your Motivation for Obedience

Class Objectives

- **We need to be secure in God’s love, remembering we are in a relationship, John 14.31.**

Jesus prayed that we would come to understand that the Father loves us as He loves the Son.

The Father rejoices over us.

- **Our security, trust, and love for God is what produces joyful obedience, Hebrews 12.2.**

Jesus’ complete trust in the Father is what sustained Him as he endured crucifixion and death.

We can experience the Father’s love every day.

Think On It

1. How would you describe your relationship with God? How do you relate to Him?

2. Presently, what is the primary motivator for your obedience to God?

What God & Christ Have Said

Let’s examine three passages that provide detail on the type of relationship the Father had with Jesus.

Mark 1:11 (CSB)

¹¹And a voice came from heaven: “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well-pleased.”

Luke 9:35 (CSB)

³⁵Then a voice came from the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, the Chosen One, listen to him!”

John 12:28 (CSB)

²⁸“Father, glorify your name.”

Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”

3. In these verses, what indications of the type of relationship the Father had with the Son do we see?
4. Is there anything here we can learn about our own relationship with the Father? Yes? No? Explain.

As we read these three passages with statements from the Father, I hope we can get the sense of the beautiful relationship He had with the Son. In it we see a sense of belonging, intimacy, and pleasure. The statements of the Father show His blessing and approval of Jesus' authority. They also show the Father's confidence in and approval of the Son.

In John 17.23, Jesus prayed that God would perfect us in unity so that the world will know that the Father sent Him *and* that the Father loves us *just as He does the Son*. Think about that. As His sons and daughters, God loves and approves of us in the same way He does the Son. His love for us is enduring, comforting, and joyful. We need to relate to Him in that way.

5. Read Zephaniah 3.17. What does this tell us about God?
6. As you read this passage and make the application to yourself and how God looks at you, how does it make you feel?

Now, let's examine two statements from Christ, one in Mark's gospel and the other in John:

John 14:31 (CSB)

³¹ ... so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do as the Father commanded me.

Mark 14:36 (CSB)

³⁶ And he said, "*Abba*, Father! All things are possible for you. Take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, not what I will, but what you will."

Here we get insight to the relationship between Jesus and the Father at the pivotal moment in human history. Jesus is about to demonstrate the ultimate act of obedience, *even death on a cross*, as Paul would say. What is propelling Jesus to move forward? Our first answer might be us, but that would be aiming too low. His highest aim and motivation was out of love and loyalty to the Father. Jesus is totally secure

in the relationship. He is resting in the Father's love. He is walking hand in hand with the Father, moving from the desire to please. Jesus has total trust in the Father because theirs is already a relationship characterized by love in its greatest degree. Jesus did not go to the cross to receive the love of the Father, *he went to the cross because he already knew the love of the Father.*

Every day, Jesus lived inside the reality of the Father's love. It was always present ... in every moment of life. Jesus never got away from the constant, reassuring presence of God. He says,

John 5:19–20 (CSB)

¹⁹Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, the Son is not able to do anything on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, the Son likewise does these things. ²⁰For the Father loves the Son and shows him everything he is doing, and he will show him greater works than these so that you will be amazed.

7. What present reality did Jesus enjoy while living on earth? What is the application for you?
8. In what way do you feel God is demonstrating His love for you in your life right now?

A Passage to Explore

What enabled Jesus to go with a spirit of joy?

Hebrews 12:1–2 (CSB)

THE CALL TO ENDURANCE

12 Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, ²keeping our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

9. What does this text indicate as motivation to endure the cross?

10. What type of assurance did Jesus move with? Did He have any reason to doubt? Why?

11. How can this passage fill our hearts with comfort as we approach our own difficulties and hardships?

12. How are you growing in the type of assurance described here?

Life Application

This week, make some time each day to spend a few moments alone with God. Every day, we will consider how much God loves us and how that moves us to live for Him. Take your time with each passage(s) so you can concentrate on what is being said. Use the questions as a springboard for your positive thoughts throughout your day.

Monday

13. Read Joshua 24.15. Reading through the context, what is it that made Joshua choose the Lord over all the other gods? Of how much value were they, and of how much value was the Lord? What was *the difference*? How had God demonstrated His love and care for them?

14. How did God's love and care motivate Joshua? How can these same principles motivate you as you look back over God's intervention in your life? How has God demonstrated His love and care for you? What impact do these facts have on your heart and attitude toward service?

Tuesday

15. Read Acts 17.25 and Mark 10.45. Does God need our service?
16. Now read 1 Peter 4.11. What do we receive as we serve God? What does this verse say is the purpose for our service? How does this change our perspective on obedience/service to God & others?

17. What is our service an indicator of? (Hint: service does not produce it, service is an indicator of its existence in our life)

We do not serve God in order to receive His love. We serve God because He loves us. We do not do works to be saved, we do works because He has saved us. They are the evidence of faith, James 2.14-26.

Wednesday

18. Read Psalm 42.1-2 and 143.5-6. What is the greatest desire of the Psalmist?

19. What should these passages teach us about our motivation for serving God? Who is the primary focus in these passages? God? Ourselves?

20. To what will our obedience lead?

Thursday

21. Read 1 Peter 1.13-16. What does it mean to *be holy*?

22. What are some negative connotations we can associate with the concept of being holy?

23. How can we turn the definition around to a positive?

24. What are some things you will allow God to use you for today?

Friday

25. Read John 14.21. By what do we demonstrate our love for Christ?

26. What do you see about *relationship* in this verse? What do we see about intimacy and closeness between the Father, the Son, and us? How can this understanding help you as you go about today in service to our God?