

A STRONG FOUNDATION LOVING WHAT GOD LOVES

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To love something or someone is to really like them, really enjoy their company, to want to bless and honour someone with your best efforts and gifts.

As you read the Bible you will find that, like today, people loved many different things:

1. **Love of Children:** Abraham loved Isaac. (Genesis 22)
David loved his child so he prayed and fasted for him. (2 Samuel 12)
2. **Love of Food:** One man sold his spiritual inheritance for food! Isaac wanted a certain dish to eat before he died. Sometimes we love food too much. No wonder our world is filled with programmes and diets to help people with food addictions. (Genesis 26-27)
3. **Intimate Relationships:** Jacob loved Rachel and worked another 7 years for her, the Bible records that *"It seemed a few days to him because he loved her."* (Genesis 29:20)
4. **Love of Friends: Proverbs 17:17**
David loved Jonathan so much that he found their friendship more satisfying than that with a woman. (2 Samuel 1:26)
5. **Love of Worthless Things:** Psalm 119:37
6. **Love of Certain Leaders:** People love leaders for many different reasons, the Bible requires us to love and honour our leaders. (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13)
 - Love is part of God's character. It is part of how He thinks and feels.
 - God is the author of love.

"So, love the LORD your God with all your heart, soul and strength." (Deuteronomy 6:5, CEV)

"People of Israel, what does the Lord your God want from you? The Lord wants you to respect and follow Him, to love and serve Him with all of your heart and soul." (Deuteronomy 10:12, CEV)

"Be sure to always love the Lord your God." (Joshua 23:11, CEV)

"I love you fervently and devotedly, O lord, my strength." (Psalm 18:1, AMP)

"O love the Lord, all you saints! The Lord preserves the faithful, and plentifully pays back him who deals haughtily." (Psalm 31:23, AMPC)

The goal of every believer should be to know God and to love Him. Is that true for you? (1John 4:7-8)

You can attend church and not really know God or truly love Him. Our heart is to keep Jesus in the centre, really loving Him above all! When you talk about loving God you also talk about knowing Him. When you talk about knowing Him you also talk about obeying Him, and when you talk about obeying Him you are talking about commitment to Him and His church and people. (John 14:15)

My Measuring Rod for Loving God Is Serving Him, Obeying Him and Loving His Church

How much do you love His house? (Church is people, not a building: 2 Peter 2:9-10)

The church is God's plan. Full stop.

Mathew 16:16-18 says Jesus is building the church and even the gates of hell cannot push it down! Almost all of the New Testament books are written to local churches: loving God is loving church!

In Ephesians 5:25-26 Jesus commands husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church. He loved the church so much that He laid His life down for her.

In Acts 9:4 He identifies Himself directly with the church *"Saul, Saul why do you persecute me?"*

Here Are Some Questions for You. True or False?

1. I look forward to going to church.
2. I never drift when the preaching is going on.
3. I never look at my watch during the service.
4. I never criticise my church or speak against the leaders or Pastors.
5. I would seek to serve in a significant way in church.
6. I look forward to extra meetings.
7. I never refer to my brother and sister as “them”.
8. I am committed to church for life.

How Do You Practically Love God’s House?

1. _____ in word and attitude.
“My love for your house burns in me like a fire, and when others insulted you, they insulted me as well.” (Psalm 69:9, CEV)
2. _____. *“If I am detained you may know how people ought to conduct themselves in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and (the prop and support) of the truth.” (1 Timothy 3:15, AMPC)*

There are certain ways we ought to conduct ourselves in church. Some of these are:

- Come on time.
 - Teach our children respect for church property and for the leaders.
 - Dress decently and modestly.
3. _____ and the Word.
 4. Giving of _____. We don’t demand your tithe or offerings, but we do want you to walk in the full blessings of God and this is one of the ways that God opens the floodgates and blesses you! Our conviction is that “God is our source”. But He uses men to supply.
 5. _____ Church is a family! We love to get to know you. Church is a place where life-long friendships are formed, purposes restored and destinies unfolded.
 6. Get _____. Do not just be a taker but also a giver; the way to feel a part of this house is to find a place to serve (Psalm 92:13, Acts 6:1-7). *My church my responsibility*
 7. _____ all the meetings. Belonging to a church is like being in a marriage; the more faithful and committed you are, the longer, healthier and more fruitful it will be.

The way you treat His Church is the way you treat Him.

Shaky or uncertain commitment to church equals a weak and powerless Christian life. (Proverbs 18:1)

Is Church Really Necessary? Reasons Why You Shouldn’t Miss Church as A Christian:

1. **You’re missing out on how God has chosen to work in this age. Church is God’s Plan.**
“It made me glad to hear them say, Let’s go to the house of the LORD.” (Psalm 122:1, CEV)
2. **You’re missing out on spiritual gifts meant for you.**
“Some people have got out of the habit of meeting for worship, but we must not do that. We should keep on encouraging each other, especially since you know that the day of the Lord’s coming is getting closer.” (Hebrews 10:2, CEV)
3. **You’re missing out on accountability.**
4. **You’re missing out on the sweetest fellowship we have every time we meet.**

“We had sweet fellowship together and used to walk to the house of God in company.” (Psalm 55:14, AMP)

We take our commitment to you seriously. We have a purpose in our hearts to love you and look out for your wellbeing. Some places and ministries under the Christian “banner” may seem good and right on the surface, but really, they can weaken your harvest. The Bible gives a clear principle of harvest in Deuteronomy 22:9. If you mix the seed you will have a weak harvest.

We want to see a great harvest in this city so let us support our church above all else with our time, treasure, talent and touch.

Jesus is so committed to His people that He laid His life on the line for us, and I’m forever grateful! Just think, if Jesus had not followed through with His commitment, where would you and I be today? But because He did, I will love Him, obey His word and commit myself to His church.