

# MARKS OF A CHRISTIAN

## #2 - LOVE

### I. God Is Love

God establishes what love is. He is the **Source-Creator, Agent-Initiator, and Example-Model** of love. The Father's love and the Son's love are ultimately demonstrated through Christ and His sacrificial work.

### II. What Is Love?

*Love is the deliberate choice to seek the highest good for the objects of our affection, as revealed by our actions.*

Love, then, is not primarily about emotion. It is actively seeking what is best for the person - or object - of our love.

### III. The Objects of Our Love

- **God**
- **Self**
- **Family** - relatives and fellow believers
- **Others**
- **Things** - which can become idolatry when they take God's rightful place

### IV. The Acts of Love

#### **Toward God - Worship**

The highest good we can seek toward God is to give Him our utmost worship, adoration, and praise.

#### **Toward Family & Fellow Christians - Affection and Service**

Love for our biological family and God's family should be demonstrated through genuine affection and serving one another.

#### **Toward Others - Generous Kindness & Sharing Christ**

Biblical love looks beyond our own interests, seeks the good of others, extends even to our enemies, and desires that others know Christ.

#### **Toward Self - Desiring God**

Our own highest good is not found in possessions, comfort, or circumstances, but in **greater intimacy with God**.

### V. The Measure of Love

Love can be measured by **the extent to which we seek and sacrifice for the highest good of the object of our love**.

But that raises an important question: **Is loving sacrificially really a sacrifice if what we gain is of greater value than what it costs?**

Obedience draws us toward deeper affection, fellowship, intimacy, and joy with God - our own highest good.

### VI. The Invitation

*Love yourself more - not less - by seeking your true highest good: God Himself.*

Love for God leads to obedience, and obedience isn't ultimately a burden when it brings us into greater fellowship and intimacy with Him.

**Closing Question:** What are you desiring more than intimacy with God that keeps you from total surrender and complete obedience?

Whatever we choose over God can become a counterfeit for the life He desires for us. Genuine love for **God, self, and others** is one of the clearest identifying marks of a follower of Christ.