

Knowing God and making Him Known.

- Deuteronomy 6:5

GOD is Love –

Deuteronomy 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Today: Covenant Love

1 – The LORD's Covenant Love = _____ (Deut. 5:9-10)

- God is _____ (1 John 4:8, 16)
- God is _____ (John 4:24)
- God is _____ (1 John 1:5f.)

2 – We love God because He _____ loved us (Deut. 6:5; see 1 John 4:19)

- Love God with your **heart** (**lebab**) = seat of intellect, will, intention; you think with your heart; it shapes your character, choices, decisions; it is the center of morality.
- Love God with your **soul** (**nepes**) = life of the individual that can be taken or lost; your inner-self with emotions, desires, and personal characteristics that make you unique.
- Love God with your **might** (**m'od**) = your "very muchness"; "exceedingly" or "greatly"; your strength; your "substance" or your "possessions" – this word intensifies the previous two.

3 – You will never truly be able to love God with your whole being until the Holy Spirit _____ love all over your heart (Rom. 5:1-5)

Application in Community: Family is the basic structure of a healthy society. Today's scriptures teach us that we are to love God and people in covenant relationships. This is true with God, in marriage, in family, and church. But what is love? It means different things depending on how you use it:

"I love my wife" > "I love my son" > "I love my dog" > "I love tacos"

Each statement has a different meaning depending on the context. You don't love your spouse the same way you love your children. And you don't love your dog the same way you love eating tacos.

When you first fall in love, you have these euphoric feelings and all of life feels easier. As the relationship continues the puppy dog feelings begin to fade and you realize if the relationship is going to continue, you have some work to do. You may have fleeting moments of euphoric feelings, but as you get jobs, have children, experience stresses of life, disappointment, and same-old-same-old, you begin to question your love and if you are not careful, you can feel emotionally dead on the inside, like you are a desert wanderer, and that perhaps you want to flee to an oasis.

Have you experienced this to some degree?

Have you noticed a parallel with your relationship with God? If so, has it caused you to doubt? How do we fix...both? They are linked, for they are each Covenant Relationships of commitment – "I am committed to you no matter what you choose to do." → this is how God sees the relationship, which gives us absolute confidence of eternal security. But how can this be? Because of His love. And if you can learn to accept the love Christ has for His Bride (the Church), then you will both experience God's love and supernaturally pass it on to those around you.

Love GOD with all your: Heart, Soul, Mind, Strength – Deut. 6:5



Application Questions:

1. How does the world define "love" and how to live it out relationally?
2. Define "covenant love" in Deut. 5:9-10 – how does this change how you view love for GOD? Love in marriage? Love in covenant community?
3. If God is Spirit (John 4:24), how does this affect His love?
4. If God is light (1 John 1:5), how does this set the standard of what love is?
5. How does the love of God enter our hearts to change us? (Romans 5:1-5)

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