

## Message Two

### Loving God and His Word to Become One with Him

- I. Because God was the Beloved seeking His people to be His love, He revealed Himself to them by giving them the law in a courting way—Ezek. 16:8:**
- A. The law is an engagement covenant:
    - 1. God loves Israel with an everlasting love—Jer. 31:3.
    - 2. In the first nineteen chapters of Exodus, God was courting His people—Jer. 2:2.
    - 3. By means of the law as an engagement covenant, God officially betrothed the children of Israel to Himself in Exodus 20 at the mountain of God—Ezek. 16:8; Jer. 31:32.
  - B. The first five commandments were given in an atmosphere of intimacy, with the expression “Jehovah Your God” uttered intimately again and again as God lovingly courted His people:
    - 1. In the first commandment the Lord told His people that they should not have any other beloved in addition to Him; He must be their unique Beloved—Exo. 20:2-3.
    - 2. In the second commandment the Lord did not want His people to make for themselves an image, an idol, of anything; and as a jealous Husband, He wanted His people to serve Him and Him alone, telling them that if they would love Him, He would show mercy unto their descendants for thousands of generations—vv. 4-6.
    - 3. In the third commandment the Lord, as their Beloved, did not want His people to use His name in an improper way, but He wanted them to honor His name and use it lovingly—v. 7.
    - 4. In the fourth commandment the Lord required His people to keep the Sabbath as a sign that they belonged to Him alone and that they were absolutely for Him—vv. 8-11.
    - 5. In the fifth commandment the Lord wanted them to remember Him as their source—v. 12.
- II. Since the law was given as an engagement contract and the entire Bible is God’s courting word, we should not try to keep it apart from loving the Lord and His word to become one with Him—John 14:21-23; 21:15-17:**
- A. As long as we love the Lord and His word and as long as we stay with Him to be infused with Him, He will do in us what we cannot do ourselves—Phil. 2:12-16; Rom. 8:4:
    - 1. We need to spend time to be infused with the Lord as our Husband, becoming more and more like Him to be His expression—S.S. 1:1-4; 6:13:
      - a. We keep the law of God by loving Him as our Husband—Matt. 22:37-40.
      - b. Whenever we tell the Lord that we love Him, He supplies us with His life, and this life enables us to become one with Him and makes Him one with us.
    - 2. Because we love God, we also love His living word, which infuses His substance into us to cause us to glow with Him:
      - a. When Moses was on the top of Mount Horeb (Mount Sinai), he was not striving or working to fulfill the requirements of the law; rather, he was being infused with God by God’s speaking with him, and his glowing face was simply a reflection of what God is—Exo. 34:28-29.
      - b. God does not want a people who strive to keep the law; He wants a glowing people to express Him for His glory—Judg. 5:31; Matt. 13:43.
  - B. Whenever we contact the Lord in a direct, intimate way, becoming one with Him, His word supplies us with life to cause us to grow, become His expression, and spontaneously live in a way which corresponds to what He is—2 Cor. 3:18; John 6:57.

***Focus:*** God desires to have a people that love Him and His word and become one with Him, hence we should tell the Lord we love Him often and come to His Word daily to contact Him and be infused with His life that we may become one with Him.

## Message Two Verses

**Isaiah 54:5** For your Maker is your Husband; Jehovah of hosts is His name. And the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; He is called the God of all the earth.

**Isaiah. 54:6** For Jehovah has called you, like a wife who has been forsaken and is grieved in spirit, even like a wife of one's youth when she has been rejected, says your God.

**Isaiah. 54:7** For a short moment I forsook you, but with great compassion I will gather you.

**Jeremiah 2:2** Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus says Jehovah: I remember concerning you the kindness of your youth, the love of your bridal days, when you followed after Me in the wilderness, in a land that was not sown.

**Jeremiah. 31:3** Jehovah appeared to me from afar, saying, Indeed I have loved you with an eternal love, therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness.

**Hosea 2:19** And I will betroth you to Myself forever; indeed I will betroth you to Myself in righteousness and justice and in lovingkindness and compassions.

**Hosea 2:20** Indeed I will betroth you to Myself in faithfulness, and you will know Jehovah.

**Ezekiel 16:8** Then I passed by you and saw you; and then was your time a time of love. And I spread My skirt over you and covered your nakedness; indeed I swore unto you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord Jehovah, and you became Mine.

**Ephesians 5:25** Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.

**Revelation 21:2** And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

**2 Corinthians 11:2** For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

**John 14:21** He who has My commandments and keeps them, he is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will manifest Myself to him.

**John 14:23** 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 an abode with him.

## Message Two Reading

### **GOD DESIRING TO EXPRESS HIMSELF THROUGH A PEOPLE**

God's desire is to express Himself through a people. He wants to make this people His dwelling. Furthermore, this people must become God's expression corresponding to His law. Since God's law is the expression of what God is, to correspond to the law is to correspond to God. God's people can have such a correspondence only by loving Him and being infused with His substance.

### **GOD HAVING SOUGHT HIS PEOPLE AS THE BELOVED SEEKING LOVE**

According to Song of Songs, the man is the beloved, and the woman, the one who lovingly seeks him, is his love (1:13-16). Thus, the beloved is the husband, whereas his love is the wife. The Bible reveals that in the Old Testament God sought His people as the Beloved seeking someone to be His love, His spouse. If you read Exodus 1 through 20 in this light, you will see that in these chapters God came a number of times to woo His people. After wooing them, He became engaged to them at Mount Sinai.

### **Having Revealed Himself to Them as Jehovah Their God the Great I Am**

In Exodus 3:14-15, the Lord revealed Himself to His people as Jehovah their God, the great I Am, the One who was, who is, and who will be forever. The One who so revealed Himself to the people was the One who was seeking lovers.

### **Loving Them with Everlasting Love**

In Jeremiah 31:3 the Lord told His people, "Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore, with lovingkindness have I drawn thee." Elsewhere we are told that God loved Jacob, but hated Esau (Rom. 9:13). There seems to be no reason for God's love for His people; He just loved them, almost as if He were blinded by love. He continued to love His people even when they were not faithful to Him. Love blinds people. The best love is this kind of blind love. If you are not blind, you will not be able to love properly. If your eyes are open to all the faults of the one you love, you may want a separation, or even a divorce. But if you love blindly, you will consider your husband or wife to be the best. In loving His people, God seemed to close His eyes and to love them blindly.

In the matter of love, do not be wiser than God. Follow Him to love your spouse blindly.

### **Dealing with Them as His Spouse**

Because God was the Beloved seeking His people to be His love, He dealt with them as His spouse. This is indicated clearly in Jeremiah 2:2; Hosea 2:19-20; Isaiah 54:5; and Ezekiel 16:8.

### **Revealing to Them What He Is by Giving Them His Law in a Courting Way**

We have pointed out again and again that God's law was given in a courting way. By giving His people the law in such a way, God made known to them what kind of God He is. In each of the first five commandments, He referred to Himself intimately as "Jehovah thy God." Revealing Himself as a jealous God, He requested that they have no other god, no other beloved, besides Him. He was seeking their love so that they would keep His commandments to express Him. The same concept is found in John 14:21 and 23. Verse 21 says, "He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him." As in Exodus 20:1-12, here we see the Lord's love in courting us and in seeking a people to love Him. In John 14:23 the Lord continues, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him." In the New Testament as well as in the Old Testament, God is courting man. The commandments in 20:1-12 were given not in a legal way, but in a courting way. In giving the law to His people, God wanted them to become His lovers.

In a proper marriage, a man and his wife become more and more one as the years go by. Gradually they become one in habit, characteristics, and expression. Likewise, eventually God's chosen people will become the same as He is and thus will truly express Him. We need to be infused with the Lord as our Husband, becoming more and more like Him. Then we shall become His expression. According to the Bible, this basic principle applies both to human marriage and to the love relationship between God and His people.

## **KEEPING THE LAW OF GOD BY LOVING HIM AND HIS WORD AND BECOMING ONE WITH HIM**

Because such a relationship exists between Christ and the church, we receive the Lord's life whenever we tell Him that we love Him. From our experience we know that when we say, "Lord Jesus, I love you," we are infused with His life. Many Christians do not realize that if they love the Lord Jesus, He will come into them to be their life and their life supply. Little children often sing, "Oh, how I love Jesus!" and young people may call to the Lord, expressing their love for Him. But such expressions of love for the Lord should not be limited to children and young people. Even those who are older also need to say, "Lord Jesus, I love you." Our need to express our love for the Lord in this way may even be greater than that of the young people. More and more, we need to tell the Lord how much we love Him.

During the past several months, I have been earnestly seeking the Lord for the proper way to live Him. Day by day, I have been praying, asking Him to show me the secret of living Him. No doubt, part of the secret is telling the Lord again and again that we love Him. Whenever we tell the Lord that we love Him, He supplies us with His life. It is this life which enables us to become one with God and makes Him one with us.

God's ultimate goal is to make us one with Him. The way for us to become one with Him is by love, life, nature, and expression. Our love for God should be like that of a woman for her husband, the very love portrayed in Song of Songs. Loving the Lord in this way, we receive His life supply. Through our affectionate love for the Lord Jesus, we are supplied with life. As this life grows, the building takes place. Actually, the growth of life is the building. Loving the Lord as our Husband and experiencing and enjoying His life and nature, we shall become His expression. Song of Songs depicts this sequence. Eventually, in a very real sense, the seeking one in Song of Songs becomes her beloved. The two, the man and the woman, become one absolutely, even in expression, living as if they were one person.

In the oneness between man and wife we see the proper way to keep the law. We do not keep the law through the exercise of our mind and will. We keep it by loving the Lord as our Husband. We all need such a sweet, intimate, affectionate love between us and the Lord. We should love Him as a

woman loves her husband. We all, young and old alike, need this kind of love. The more we love the Lord in this way, the more we shall partake of His life and spontaneously live Him in accordance with His nature. Then our living will automatically become the keeping of His law. What we live out will be according to the law as His description, definition, and expression.

It is of the Lord's sovereignty that the Song of Songs is included in the Scriptures. However, some so-called Christians disagree with the inclusion of Song of Songs in the Bible, viewing it as a secular book, not as a sacred one. But in fact Song of Songs is the most sacred of books. In this book the seeker says, "I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine" (6:3). If we did not have Song of Songs, we probably could not have such an expression regarding our relationship with the Lord. The hymn "Loved With Everlasting Love" has a line in the chorus which says, "I am His, and He is mine." This is a reference to Song of Songs. To say that "I am my beloved's" does not mean that He is the Master possessing us as His servants. It means that we are His love. This relationship is not that between master and slave, but the affectionate relationship between husband and wife. Song of Songs is the most romantic book ever written. Yet this book is concerned with the loving relationship between God and His chosen people. It presents a portrait of the married life of Christ and those who love Him.

I would remind you that the subject of this message is keeping the law of God by loving Him and His word and becoming one with Him. Keeping the law of God has very much to do with loving Him as a wife loves her husband. We have pointed out repeatedly that in giving the law God was wooing His people. Since the law was given as an engagement contract, we should not try to keep it apart from loving the Lord and being one with Him.

We in the Lord's recovery appreciate praying the Word. We do not want to read the Bible without contacting the Lord in a living way. We must beware of reading the Bible apart from praying and touching the Lord. If we contact the Lord in the Word, we shall be one with Him in a practical way in our experience. Then we shall become His counterpart. By loving the Lord as our Beloved and becoming one with Him, even becoming His love, His word will become the life supply to us. The law is the condensation of His word. Whenever we contact the Lord in a direct,

intimate way, becoming one with Him, His word supplies us with life. By this life we grow, become His expression, and live in a way which corresponds to what He is. Such a living corresponds to God's law and to His word. This is the proper way to use the law of God and the Word of God. (*Life-study of Exodus*, pp. 626-628, 638-639, 642-643, 653, 655)