

Subject: *Do You Really Love Christ?*

Scripture: *John 21:1-17*

Someone asked R. C. Sproul how they could know for sure if they were truly saved. He answered: “Do you have a real love for Christ?” As we think about our love for Christ we are going to look at it through the life of Peter and the disciples. When we think about our love for Jesus we need to start at the right place. The Bible says “we love Him because He first loved us.”

1. Christ’s Love for Us

A. He redeems us – “After these things” in verse 1 refers to what has just happened (crucifixion and resurrection).

B. He reveals Himself to us – He revealed Himself by His personal appearance after the resurrection (vs. 1, 14, Jesus “showed himself to his disciples”).

He revealed Himself by the miraculous catch of fish (compare Luke 5:1-11). Peter said “I go fishing.” He was going back to life as usual before he came to Christ and followed Him. The other disciples went with him.

He revealed Himself at the breakfast on the shore (vs. 12). They probably saw the nail scars in His hands and feet.

He reveals Himself to us in Scripture.

C. He restores us – Peter denied Christ on the night of His arrest, but now Christ restores him by asking the question three times (“Simon, do you love me?”).

2. Our Love for Christ

A. It must be supreme love – In verse 15, Jesus asked Peter: “Do you love me more than these?” He was referring to the catch of fish. He must have first place in our hearts.

B. It must be submissive love – When Jesus asked Peter, “Do you love me?” Peter said, “Yes, Lord, you know I love you.” Then Jesus followed that by saying, “Feed my sheep.” In other words, prove your love by doing what I say. The true test of love is obedience. ***John 14:15*** *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

In Peter’s life there were two crucial times when we see Christ’s two main concerns: fishing for men and feeding his sheep. Jesus said: “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Then Jesus said: “Feed my sheep.” At both times, Jesus called Peter to submit and obey.

Jesus makes the same demand of us. He calls us to trust Him as Savior and obey Him as Master. That means a total change of control and a way of life. How can we expect Christ to change other people if He hasn’t changed us? Judge your love for Christ not by your attendance on Easter Sunday. Judge your love by asking, “Do I obey Christ? Do I serve Him?” Examine yourselves to see if you are in the faith. Examine your life to see if you really do love Christ.