

The Grand Theme – The Love of God (Part 7)

Coast Community Church Pastor's Class; Earl Miles; August 25, 2013

What is the 'love of God'?

The love of God is better than life. (Psalm 63:3)

The love of God changes us. (Ephesians 3:17-19)

It is important to know and believe the love of God. (1 John 4:16)

What is 'love'?

Love can include (1) a desire for another's good (2) a pursuit of another's good (3) a delight in another and (4) a commitment to another.

Review: *The Five Divine Loves*

- Love within the Trinity (all 4 elements above in a perfect relationship)
- Love for Creation (1, 2 and 3)
- Love for Humanity (1 and 2)
- Love for the Elect (all 4 elements above in a redemptive relationship)
- Love for the Obedient (focus on 3)

More personal expressions of these truths:

- God loves His Son, my Savior.
- God loves the birds and the trees in my yard.
- God loves the people at my grocery store.
- God loves the believers in my youth group.
- God loves those who lay down their lives to love or God loves those who love His commands or God loves my obedience to His commands or God loves it when I pray for my sister or God loves it when I share the gospel with my neighbor, Ted or God loves it when I teach my children the Bible or God loves it when I take my wife out on a date.

Why is obedience important?

- Love (2 John 1:6)
- Joy (John 15:10-11)
- Assurance (Matthew 7:21)

No fruit on the tree is a problem! – Matthew 21:18-19

New Era farmers – if they plowed their fields and planted their seed and looked for corn but got weeds instead they would not be happy!

- God loves the obedient. (1 Samuel 15:22; Proverbs 11:1; Psalm 146:7-9; Psalm 33:5; Psalm 11:5-7; Proverbs 15:9; Hebrews 1:9; Hebrews 12:11)
- Obedience is love and God commands love. (1 John 5:2-3; **2 John 1:6**; Romans 13:10)
- Obedience is crucial to our assurance. (**Matthew 7:21**)
- Obedience is crucial to our joy and God commands our joy. (**John 14:21, 23; 15:10-11**; Deuteronomy 6:24; Deuteronomy 10:12-13)
- The gift of righteousness should result in greater obedience, not less obedience. (Romans 5:17-6:4)
- The God who commands obedience is the God who enables obedience. (Romans 8:9-14)
- Obedience should be our goal. (2 Corinthians 5:9)

Our goal is to please God, to be pleased with God, and to be pleased by God.

What makes obedience so difficult?

- Us (Romans 1:22-25)
- Others (Ephesians 6:4)
- God (Romans 7:22-25)

What factors are involved in the obedience of your child?

Your parenting, your child's heart, and the work of God. (*When Good Kids Make Bad Choices* – Fitzpatrick and Newheiser)

The Inside Wanting the Outside or the Pregnancy of Sin! – James 1:14-16; 4:1-4

1. Flesh ('idol factory of our hearts')(**Romans 1:22-25**)
2. World ('deception of Vanity Fair')(1 John 2:15-17)
3. Devil ('lion seeking someone to devour')(1 Peter 5:8)
4. Sinful people ('provoking to anger')(**Ephesians 6:4**)

5. Weak bodies ('impatience and sleep' and 'blame on the brain' issues) (1 Timothy 5:22-24) (Timothy's wine)
6. Perception of circumstances ('surrounded by angels')(2 Kings 6:15-17) (Elisha and his servant)
7. Perception of obedience (1 John 5:3)
8. Maturity ('infants in Christ who need milk')(1 Corinthians 3:1-4)
9. Neglect of the means of grace (1 Peter 2:2; James 4:2; Hebrews 10:23-25)
10. Legalism (Galatians 3:1-5)
11. Lawlessness (Galatians 5:13-15)
12. God ('leaves weak areas in our lives' – Jonathan Edwards and slavery) (**Romans 7:22-25**)

What is the key to obedience?

- Trying Harder?
- Accountability?
- Separation?
- Quiet Times?
- Thankfulness?
- Knowledge?
- Sleep?
- Faith!

If I want my fan to work, I can put it in difference places or shout at it or clean it, but until I plug it into the electrical socket, it's not going to run!

Faith is what plugs us into the Power source of God's grace.

The Hall of Faith! – Hebrews 11

The Fuel of Obedience: We will obey the 'command' that fits the 'promise' we are trusting. Or our obedience flows out of our trust and our disobedience flows out of our unbelief.

Romans 1:5; 16:26; Galatians 5:6; Hebrews 11:6; Hebrews 3:19; 4:6

Fight of faith (Timothy)

Adam and Eve

Moses

Abraham

Wicked and unbelieving generation

Believing a lie

What does faith do?

Abraham – the Faith Prototype!

What would a thirsty man in the desert do if he saw an oasis? He would naturally respond in light of His need and the provision seen!

This is what faith does.

1. Believe God. (Romans 4:3-5; 1 John 5:9-12)
 - i. Hope in Jesus. (Romans 1:16-17; 5:1-2, 17-21; 15:13)
 - ii. Submit to Jesus. (Romans 12:1-2; 10:9-10; 15:12)
 1. Turn from sin. (Acts 2:28; 11:16; 17:30; 20:21)
 2. Trust His promises. (Romans 4:19-21; Hebrews 11:6, 24-26)
 3. Obey His commands/Love. (Romans 1:5; 16:26; Matthew 28:20; 1 Corinthians 7:19; Galatians 5:6; Romans 13:8-10)
 4. Repeat in every situation/relationship. (1 Timothy 1:5; 1 Corinthians 13:1-3; 1 Corinthians 16:14; Matthew 5:43-48; Luke 6:27-38)

How do I strengthen my faith?

Disciples and Repeat Offenders! - Luke 17:1-6

The Longest Chapter in the Bible – A Song About the Word! – Psalm 119

If a thirsty man in the desert is blind or so near-sighted that he can't see the oasis, then what he needs is something to strengthen his sight.

The Word is like a pair of glasses or a miracle of healing that enables us to see what we are blind to or what is unclear to us at best.

1. Word! (Romans 10:17; 1 Peter 2:2)
 - i. With prayer. (Luke 11:13; Psalm 119:149)
 - ii. With people. (Ephesians 4:14-16; Hebrews 3:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:14)
 - iii. With perseverance. (Luke 8:15)
 1. By the Spirit! (2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Thessalonians 1:5)

The Means of Grace: God gives grace (faith to obey) through the means of grace (Word, prayer, and His people). Acts 2:42; 1 Peter 2:2; James 4:2; Hebrews 10:23-25