

“But the greatest of these is LOVE!”

Part 4: “Love the LORD your God ...”

**Matthew 22:37-40; Deuteronomy 6:4-15;
Exodus 20:1-6**



Introduction: The “LOVE” God reveals in His Word is a “spiritual
gift” that God produces within those who are born again
by His Spirit.

God calls those who by His grace are born again by His Spirit, INTO a
relationship with Him through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

The “LOVE” God speaks of is the calling of those who are
disciples of Jesus!

Love for God is the fountain from which the life of the believer flows!

II Corinthians 5:17-18: “*If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The
old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is
from GOD !!”*

I. Love for God recognizes who God IS ...

Deuteronomy 6:4-15: “*...for the LORD your God in your midst is a
jealous God ...” (vs. 15).*

You can’t and won’t love a “God” you do not KNOW !!!

Exodus 20:1-6: “*... but showing steadfast love to thousands of those
who love me and keep my commandments.”*

Exodus 3:6, 13-15: “*Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I AM has
sent me to you ... the God of Abraham, ... Isaac ... and ...
Jacob’ ...” (vss. 14-15).*

Acts 17:24-25: “*The God who made the world and everything
in it, being Lord of heaven and earth ...” (vs. 24).*

God IS who He reveals Himself to be!!

II. Love for God rejoices in who God IS ...

The joy that moves believers to rejoice in God is found in salvation !

Hosea declared that the people of Israel had committed adultery by
worshipping idols .

You cannot and will not love God unless you rejoice in Him as the God who has
delivered you, who has saved you from judgment.

People refuse to acknowledge their sin or the sin of those around them and then
blame “God” for all the misery in their lives!

Habakkuk 3:17-18: “*... YET I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take
joy in the God of my salvation” (vs. 18).*

The Pharisees and Sadducees missed the very lesson of the LAW given through
Moses: No one could keep it! All were sinners in need of saving !

God reveals His love in Christ , and if people don’t KNOW Him and
trust in Him they do not know God’s love and they will never truly
love Him back.

When the Spirit produces new life and you respond in faith to the call
of the Gospel to come ... then you have reason to rejoice !!

III. Love for God responds to who God IS!!!

Deuteronomy 6:6-9, 10:12-13, 11:1: “*These words that I command you
today shall be on your heart” (vs. 6).*

How did Moses instruct the people of Israel to express their love for God?
OBEDIENCE !

Psalms 1:1-6: “*... his delight is in the Law of the LORD, and on His Law
he meditates day and night” (vs. 2).*

John 14:15, 15:9-11: “*These things I have spoken to you, that my joy
may be in you and that your joy may be full” (15:11).*

I John 5:2-3: “*For this is the love of God, that we keep His
commandments” (I John 5:3).*

The real divide in our nation and in the world is between those who love
God and so desire to obey Him ... and those who don’t.

Love for God is the fountain from which the life of the believer flows!