

Living in the Love of God (Jn. 15:9-11)

I. OUR ULTIMATE WORTH

A. The ultimate statement about our worth and value is that Jesus has the same measure of love or affection towards us that His Father has towards Him (Jn. 15:9; 17:23).

⁹As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide [live in] in My love. ¹⁰If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love...¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. (Jn. 15:9-11)

²³That the world may know that You...have loved them as You have loved Me. (Jn. 17:23)

B. ***Abide in My love:*** Jesus called us to abide or live in the experience of God's love. This begins with being focused on growing in our understanding of God's love or affections for us.

C. ***My joy:*** When we experience Jesus' love for us, it changes how we feel. We feel His joy in us. Feeling God's affection exhilarates our hearts and gives us confidence in the grace of God to run to God instead of from God when we encounter our sin and weakness.

D. ***Full of joy that remains:*** This joy can grow to fullness and be sustained throughout our life.

E. ***If you keep My commands:*** The pursuit of 100-fold obedience increases our ability to experience God's affection by positioning us to receive more of it (not to earn more).

²¹He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. (Jn. 14:21)

F. ***I have spoken to you:*** Feeding on God's Word is the way to experience God's affections.

³²You shall know [experience] the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (Jn. 8:32)

II. LOVE THAT CASTS OUT FEAR: WORSHIPING GOD WITH AN OPEN SPIRIT

¹⁷Love has been perfected [made mature] among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. He who fears has not been made perfect in love. (1 Jn. 4:17-18)

A. ***Principle #1:*** The fear of judgment involves torment. In our relationships (with God and people), we close or guard our spirit when we feel judged or condemned. Thus, we receive less from God.

B. ***Principle #2:*** Understanding Jesus' work on the cross gives us boldness in the day of judgment. We know that in the same way that Jesus is received before the Father, so also are we received (2 Cor. 5:17-21). This is true even while we live in this world (1 Jn. 4:17c) as well as after we die.

¹⁷If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new...²¹for He made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Cor. 5:17-21)

- C. Principle #3: A perfect or mature understanding of God's affections casts out the fear of being judged and rejected. There is no fear of being judged to those with understanding of God's love.
- D. Principle #4: When God wants to empower us to love Him, He reveals Himself as the one who deeply loves us. Whatever we understand about God's heart for us is awakened in our heart back to God. For example, we enjoy or pursue Jesus because we understand that He first enjoyed or pursued us. We change our mind (thinking) and then God changes our hearts (emotions).
¹⁹We love Him because [we understand that] He first loved us. (1 Jn. 4:19)
- E. To know God's love means to experience His affections for us. This is the way to God's fullness.
¹⁸That you...may be able to comprehend...¹⁹to know [experience] the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Eph. 3:18-19)

III. BEHOLDING THE GLORY OF GOD

¹⁸But we all...beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory...by the Spirit. (2 Cor. 3:18)

- A. The "beholding and becoming" principle: Whatever we behold (study and meditate on) in God's heart towards us becomes awakened in our heart back to God (transformation).
- B. In 2 Cor. 3:18, Paul referred to the time in Moses' life in which he cried out to behold God's glory. To proclaim the Lord's name is to proclaim His personality (emotions, wisdom, etc.).
¹⁸Moses said, "Please, show me Your glory." ¹⁹Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you..." (Ex. 33:18-19)
⁶The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth..." (Ex. 34:6)
 1. The Lord is merciful: He is tender with our weaknesses.
 2. The Lord is gracious: He does not give us what we deserve.
 3. The Lord is longsuffering: He bears with us and does not write us off.
 4. The Lord is abounding in goodness: He overflows with good plans for us.
- C. God's tender mercy is far beyond anything that we can compare with it.
⁷Let the wicked forsake his way...let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him...for He will abundantly pardon. ⁸"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. ⁹"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." (Isa. 55:7-9)
- D. Jesus called us to focus on seeking to abide or live in the reality of His love.
⁹Abide in My love. ¹⁰If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love. (Jn. 15:9-10)
²¹Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus... (Jude 21)