

## Loving God – Study Questions

### 1) What is the greatest commandment in the Bible?

- A) Jesus said, “You shall \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord your God with all your \_\_\_\_\_ and with all your \_\_\_\_\_ and with all your \_\_\_\_\_. This is the great and first commandment” (Matthew 22:37–38; Deuteronomy 6:5). This means we should love God with every part of our \_\_\_\_\_ and to the utmost of our \_\_\_\_\_ .
- B) Jesus continued, “And a second is like it: You shall love your \_\_\_\_\_ as yourself” (Matthew 22:39; Leviticus 19:18b). \_\_\_\_\_ others is part of loving God.
- C) Jesus concluded, “On these two commandments depend all the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ ” (Matthew 22:40). Everything God requires of us can be summarized by these two commands.

### 2) What does it mean to love God?

- A) The Bible tells us that those who love God:
- (1) are \_\_\_\_\_ to Him alone.
  - (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Him with gladness.
  - (3) desire to \_\_\_\_\_ Him.
  - (4) seek their \_\_\_\_\_ in Him.
  - (5) work to build a closer \_\_\_\_\_ with Him.
- B) Everything listed above is a function of the \_\_\_\_\_. That is because love, although truly a feeling, is also a \_\_\_\_\_. Strong, enduring relationships require lots of hard work!

### 3) Loving God means being faithful to Him alone.

- A) When God spoke audibly to the people of Israel at Mount Sinai, the first thing He said was, “I am the LORD your God, who \_\_\_\_\_ you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery. You must not have any other god but \_\_\_\_\_ ” (Exodus 20:2–3 NLT).
- B) Having another god (idolatry) means allowing anything to take God’s rightful place of \_\_\_\_\_ in your life.
- C) Being faithful to God alone involves \_\_\_\_\_ (Deuteronomy 13:1–4 NLT).
- D) Being faithful to God alone involves \_\_\_\_\_ (Deuteronomy 13:6a, 8–9 NLT).
- E) The sacrifices we make to be faithful to God will not go \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 19:29). This wonderful truth encourages us as we strive to remain faithful to God alone.

#### 4) Loving God means obeying Him with gladness.

- A) What is the connection between obedience and loving God? Jesus said, “If you love me, you will \_\_\_\_\_ my commandments” (John 14:15). The apostle John said, “For this is the love of God, that we \_\_\_\_\_ his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome” (1 John 5:3). These passages teach us that love for God expresses itself in \_\_\_\_\_ to His commands.
- B) What is it that God commands? That we should love \_\_\_\_\_ and love \_\_\_\_\_. But how do we love God and love others? The answer is found in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ God’s word (e.g., Ephesians 4:32; 6:18–19). It will teach us how to live out these two commands.
- C) Is it enough to simply obey God? No—our \_\_\_\_\_ is also very important. Psalm 100:2 says, “Serve the LORD with \_\_\_\_\_! Come into his presence with \_\_\_\_\_!” This means we should obey God without grumbling or \_\_\_\_\_ (Philippians 2:14). Instead, we should serve Him with a cheerful spirit, \_\_\_\_\_ for His love and mercy.

#### 5) Loving God means desiring to please Him.

- A) Paul’s testimony was, “We make it our goal to \_\_\_\_\_ him” (2 Corinthians 5:9 NIV). This is the motto of those who truly love God.
- B) How can we please God? Paul’s letter to the Colossians gives us two important insights (Colossians 1:9–10).
- (1) First, we must be “filled with the \_\_\_\_\_ of his will” in order to be “fully pleasing to him.” We gain this knowledge by \_\_\_\_\_ God’s Word and \_\_\_\_\_ the leadership of the Holy Spirit (Romans 10:17; James 1:21–22; Galatians 5:25).
  - (2) Second, God cares about \_\_\_\_\_ aspect of our lives. The phrase “fully pleasing to Him” means pleasing Him in \_\_\_\_\_ things.
- C) Love for God is demonstrated by a desire to please Him in every area of your life. This is more than just following a list of rules. We can obey a list of rules without loving the rule-maker. However, if we love the one who made the rules, we will not only obey him gladly, we will also desire to please him in everything we do.

#### 6) Loving God means seeking our happiness in Him.

- A) Is there anything wrong with wanting to be happy? Not at all! In fact, our problem is that our desire for happiness is not \_\_\_\_\_ enough!
- B) God wants us to be happy! Consider the following verses from the OT:
- (1) “Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you” (Deuteronomy 5:16)

- (2) “Keep the LORD's commands and statutes I am giving you today, for your own good” (Deuteronomy 10:13 HCSB).
- (3) “How blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, Who walks in His ways. When you shall eat of the fruit of your hands, You will be happy and it will be well with you” (Psalm 128:1–2 NASB).

C) God calls us to obey Him by \_\_\_\_\_ to our desire for things be well, that is, our desire for happiness. This implies two things: first, God \_\_\_\_\_ us to seek happiness, and second, true happiness is found only in a life of \_\_\_\_\_ to Him.

D) We seek our happiness in God by:

- (1) Recognizing that “the world is \_\_\_\_\_ along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2:17).
- (2) Being willing to \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves in the present so we may gain everything in the future (Philippians 2:5–11).
- (3) Saying with Paul, “I have learned in whatever situation I am to be \_\_\_\_\_” (Philippians 4:11).
- (4) \_\_\_\_\_ in Him—His attributes (love, mercy, justice, etc.), His saving grace, His many blessings in your life (Psalm 32:10–11; Philippians 4:4).

## 7) Loving God means working to build a closer relationship with Him.

- A) We need to be \_\_\_\_\_ each day to cultivate a closer relationship with God. We do this by:
- (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to Him.
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to Him.
- (3) Spending time with other \_\_\_\_\_ .
- (4) Resisting \_\_\_\_\_ .