

Listen, watch, or read the sermon on the website if you missed it. Turn to the back for an outline of the sermon.

Ice Breaker: Can you imagine a wrong reason (motive) to exercise? Give an example.

1. Discuss anything that jumped out at you in your private devotions this week.
2. Pastor David made the point that God's love for us should ultimately result in a love for him that motivates and compels us into action.
  1. What tends to hinder your own comprehension or meditation upon the love of God toward you?
  2. What things help you to be mindful of God's lavish love toward you?
  3. What can you do to set your mind upon God's amazing love more regularly?
3. Moses explains that obedience is the appropriate response to be offered to the God who loves us so.
  1. But obedience can be offered to God out of right or wrong motives. Obedience to gain God's acceptance is called legalism and is damning. Obedience from trusting God and being thankful for his prior acceptance of you in Christ is called the obedience of faith and is saving (cf. Rom 9:30-32).
  2. Heart level or "inner man" motives for our obedience is therefore critical. Reflect upon what drives you to obey God. Silently confess any wrong motives to God (cf. 1 John 1:9), turning from this sin and embrace Christ as your only saving righteousness (cf. Phil 3:8-10).
4. The Mosaic covenant is conditional and promises either blessing or curse based upon our response to God.
  1. How can we keep from being frozen with fear due to my inability to keep his law perfectly?
    1. In addition to the Phil 3:8-10 passage, consider Rom 3:20-26, and Rom 8:1-4.
  2. And knowing that the New Covenant is God's action (cf. Jer 31:31-34; Ezek 36:26-27; Deut 30:6) to meet the conditional requirements of the Mosaic Covenant in us by faith, what kind of blessings remain to be fulfilled by our active obedience? See John 14:21 for a couple of examples and see questions below.
    1. Ponder how Jesus manifests himself more in your life as you walk in obedience. Lookup the word "manifest" in an english dictionary and consider alternative versions of this verse as you think on this (NASB- "disclose", NIV "show", HCSB- "reveal").
    2. Also consider the special love that the Father has for those who love his Son (cf. Psalm 72:12-14, 116:15).

**Sermon Idea:** “Our spiritual well-being is proportional to our love for God through obedience to Him.”

**I. We are to love God because He loves us. (vv 1-7)**

- A. God saves us because He loves us.
  - 1. Moses commanded Israel to love God in response to God’s great love He had lavished on them. (vv 1-7)
  - 2. God delivered Israel from their slavery in Egypt. (vv 1-4)
  - 3. God disciplined Israel in the desert for their rebellion. (vv 5-6)
- B. God is faithful to us even when we fail Him. (v 7)
- C. We can love God more faithfully as we set our thoughts to comprehend His love for us.
  - 1. God loves us freely and without cause. (Deuteronomy 7:7-8; 1 John 4:19)
  - 2. God has loved us from eternity past. (Jeremiah 31:3; Ephesians 1:4-5)
  - 3. God’s love for us is infinite. (Ephesians 2:4)
  - 4. God’s love for us is sacrificial. (John 3:16; Romans 5:8)
  - 5. God’s love for us cannot change. (Romans 8:35-39)
- D. When we better grasp God’s love for us, we reciprocate with love toward Him.
  - 1. We imitate His love and love Him back. (1 John 4:19)
  - 2. We grow in our depth of love for God. (Deuteronomy 6:5)

**II. We are to fully obey God in response to His love for us. (vv 8-12)**

- A. Full obedience will bring full blessings. (vv 8-11)
  - 1. If Israel obeyed God, they would take the land He had reserved for them. (v 8)
  - 2. If Israel obeyed God, they would live fuller lives. (v 9)
  - 3. If Israel obeyed God, they would enjoy God’s favored provisions. (vv 10-11)
- B. As our love for God grows so does our desire for obedience.
  - 1. We will love God and learn to hate the world. (1 John 2:15)
  - 2. We will love others with genuine love. (Matthew 22:37-38; John 13:35)
  - 3. We will love and follow the Word of God. (John 14:15; 1 John 5:3)
  - 4. We will surrender to God fully because of the love of Christ. (Galatians 2:20)
- C. Full obedience will bring continued fellowship with Christ. (v 12)
  - 1. When we obey God, His blessings flow in abundance.
  - 2. When we obey God, we abide in Christ.
- D. As our knowledge of Christ’s love for us grows, we grow in our understanding of the grace of the gospel.