

MESSAGE BIG IDEA

Being an apprentice of Jesus involves reorienting our lives around three relationships, including Loving God.

SCRIPTURE

John 14:6, 14:15-31, 15:1-11, Romans 5:8

POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND

1. John 14:16, 14:15-31, 15:1-11. Through the sacrifice Jesus must make for our salvation, He becomes the pathway for our relationship with the Father and eternal life. Through the sacrifice Jesus must make for our salvation, He becomes the pathway for our relationship with the Father and eternal life.
2. It may help to substitute the phrase “be devoted” for the word love in these passages. The biblical concept of love is often confused with more modern ideas about love, which obscures what Jesus was teaching. We may think Jesus is commanding us to have a certain emotion. If we understand Jesus as saying “be devoted,” we hear him say something more like, “those who are devoted to me will keep my commands.” This carries with it the notion that love is an action.” It is also worth pointing out that when we are devoted to a person, the attendant feelings of affection we associate with love often follow.
3. How might the foundation of God’s love help us? This kind of unconditional, unrestrained, unchanging love is difficult for us to understand. But the ability to LIVE LOVED hinges on it! It hinges on accepting that the God of the universe, the Creator of all things, loves YOU! There isn’t anything you can do to make him love you more, and there’s nothing you can do to make him love you less. What would it look like to you to Live Loved?
4. We may have tried to be obedient to God out of desperation or a sense of duty, yet the most healthy relationships are not motivated by those impulses. They are grounded in self-giving love and the desire for connection. If those are characteristics of a healthy relationship and we believe God is good, then should we also expect that a relationship with God would be similar?

QUOTES

“No pressure in this life will be too much where our Lord cannot help you. If you feel tired and worn out constantly it is because you have been weary walking in the desert without the refreshing streams of prayer and abiding with the Lord.” – Greg Gordon (Author, The Following of Christ)

“How do we ‘remain’ in him? What does it look like in practice? ...We must remain in the community that knows and loves him and celebrates him as its Lord. There is no such thing as a solitary Christian. We can’t ‘go it alone’. But we must also remain as people of prayer and worship in our own intimate, private lives.” – NT Wright, John for Everyone