

**2-12-17**  
**THE PROOF THAT WE LOVE HIM**

Last week we talked about Biblical love, and that there is no greater example of love than the love that Christ has for us. In fact the Bible says:

I John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

God sets the standard for what love is. We do not set the standard. We do not know how to love. He loved us before we ever loved Him.

How do we show that we love God? After we receive the love of God, after we become recipients of His love, we show we love Him by being obedient to His commandments. That is what we are going to talk about this morning. This week we celebrate Valentines day and there is a lot of talk about showing and expressing our love for each other. I want to challenge you to show and express your love to Christ by being obedient to his commandments. This morning we will share the most basic of those commandments. If we cannot be obedient in obeying His most basic commandments, how can we go on to obey His detailed commands for our life?

FIRST OF ALL LET US CONSIDER OUR TEXT:

***I. WE SHOW OUR LOVE FOR THE LORD BY KEEPING HIS COMMANDS.***

John 15:12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

***John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.***

Jesus told His disciples that there is no greater example and demonstration of love than the love He had for us in giving His life for us on the cross.

John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

BUT NOW, WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE THAT WE LOVE HIM BACK?

What is the evidence that we have received the Love of God?

It is our obedience to His commands.

I John 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

I John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

WHEN WE ACCEPT THE LOVE OF GOD IN OUR HEARTS AND HIS BLESSED HOLY SPIRIT THE FIRST THING THAT WE WILL WANT TO KNOW IS WHAT HE WANTS US TO DO FOR HIM.

Acts 9:4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

Acts 9:5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

Acts 9:6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

It shall be told you what to do. Who was going to tell him?

The Lord used one of His servants, Ananias.

And who is going to tell you what the Lord would have you to do? I believe He still uses men of God, His preachers, to help in this endeavor.

Acts 9:17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

Acts 9:18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

Now the most basic commandment he has given his people today is the same thing he commanded the Apostle Paul to do after he got saved.

Notice the first thing that Christ commands His people to do is to get baptized.

**1. *When we get Baptized, this is the first evidence that we received the love of God in our hearts.***

After we realize what He did for us and the forgiveness of God for our sins, it is a small thing that he asks of us to be baptized.

Baptism is the first step of obedience for us, after we are saved.

It amazes me how many people rebel against this command, when it is as clear as the nose on your face. Nowhere in the Bible do you see people who put off baptism after they believe on the Lord.

**A. *Baptism must take place after a person believes and receives Christ, not before.***

There are some churches that Baptize babies. they call it Christening.

Nowhere in the Bible do you see babies being baptized.

The qualification for Baptism is clearly given in Scripture:

In Acts 8:37, it says that a person has to believe with all their heart.

How can a baby who does not even know how to talk yet, make a profession of faith? How can they express that they believe with all their heart? Baby baptism came in through Romanism, when it was the law of the land that everyone be a Christian. So as the church became corrupted by man's traditions to dispel fears that babies needed to be in good graces with the church to be saved, the church fabricated infant baptism to accommodate their false teachings.

Many also wrongly equate Baptism with circumcision. Since babies are circumcised why should babies not be baptized into the church. This is the erroneous logic that accommodates this error. This comes from the false belief that the New Testament church replaces Israel and is in fact God's covenant people. So Baby baptism takes the place of circumcision which is wrong and totally unbiblical. Obviously in the end times Israel will be there and will be restored to God. Paul said:

***Romans 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.***

***Romans 11:26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:***

***Romans 11:27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.***

***Romans 11:28 As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes.***

So because of this false teaching, most churches that believe the church replaces Israel as God's covenant people, most of these churches baptize babies.

There is a host of reasons churches such as Lutherans, Catholics, Orthodox, reformed churches, Episcopal, and Methodist churches, and others, baptize babies, but all their reasoning either twists scripture or supplants their church tradition with Scripture.

CONSIDER THIS ABOUT BAPTISM:

***B. Babies need to be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Baptism obscures their need for personal salvation.***

Every parent should be diligent to train their children in Scripture and pray for their salvation from an early age.

The more parents teach the importance of obedience and obedience to God in their children's hearts the more likely they will be saved at an early age.

Personal family devotions and Bible reading is key to the success for their salvation.

II Timothy 3:14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them ;

II Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

The more Scripture a Child knows, the more likely they will be saved at an early age. Children should be challenged to exercise personal faith in Jesus Christ. Not to be talked into the assurance of their salvation.

Parents need to be diligent in this responsibility of bringing their children up in the things of the Lord.

This is part of the command: IF YOU LOVE ME KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS:

Deuteronomy 6:5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Deuteronomy 6:6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

Deuteronomy 6:7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Deuteronomy 6:8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

Deuteronomy 6:9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

THE NEXT BASIC COMMANDMENT WE ALL NEED TO OBEY IS:

## ***II. Faithfully assembling ourselves is a second step of obedience.***

THIS IS OUR LORD'S COMMANDMENT AND IF WE LOVE HIM WE SHOULD KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS.

This was the command the Lord gave to his disciples just before he was taken up:

Note: This was the last thing Jesus told His disciples before he was received into heaven! It certainly was pressing or he would not have stressed it!

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Matthew 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

We see in the book of Acts that this was exactly what the early disciples did and after they preached salvation they baptized those who received the word, and then they disciplined those who believed.

When the early disciples got saved we read:

Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Acts 2:43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

Notice: They continued stedfastly in the apostles doctrine, and fellowship and breaking of bread and in prayers..

Notice this is what the church is all about.

## **1. WE SHOULD BE TEACHING BIBLICAL DOCTRINE...**

Which includes all Scripture. The Scripture says, "they continued steadfastly in the Apostles doctrine."

The Bible is a large text book and it takes a life time of study to understand it. In fact even after you have studied it, it behoves us to review over and over again.

It is not a book to be read once. We should read it , memorize it, study it and meditate on it! This is the all things He has commanded us part of the command. As a church we should teach all things, and as a believer you should be learning the all things he has commanded you.

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Not only should we gather together to learn doctrine but we should gather together to fellowship together.

## **2. WE SHOULD PROVIDE A PLACE FOR GOD'S PEOPLE TO FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER.**

The word fellowship comes from the greek word KOINONIA Which means:

koinonia, koy-nohn-ee'-ah; from 2844; partnership, i.e. (lit.) participation, or (social) intercourse, or (pecuniary) benefaction:-(to) communicate (-ation), communion, (contri-) distribution, fellowship.

----- Dictionary Trace -----

koinonos, koy-no-nos'; from 2839; a sharer, i.e. associate:-companion, X fellowship, partaker, partner.

Church is a place where you can fellowship with other believers.

WHAT DOES THIS FELLOWSHIP INVOLVE?

In the church we fellowship around the Bible and give testimonies.  
Sunday night we give testimonies.

In the church we partner together to serve the Lord.  
We do projects, and work together on these.  
Christmas programs, Sunday School, Bible School, Tent meetings.

In the church we commune together and socialize talk communicate.  
We have dinners and socials, times to get together.

In the church we find find camaraderie.  
The world fellowship has the cognation of finding camaraderie with each other.

### **3. THE CHURCH IS A PLACE WHERE WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S TABLE. Breaking of bread.**

Jesus said do this often in remembrance of me.

Why would you skip church when you have an opportunity to obey Christ's command to break bread?

Be careful you do not say in your heart what the Israelites said:

***Malachi 1:12 But ye have profaned it, in that ye say, The table of the LORD is polluted; and the fruit thereof, even his meat, is contemptible.  
Malachi 1:13 Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts;***

### **4. THE CHURCH IS A PLACE WHERE GOD'S PEOPLE CAN PRAY TOGETHER.**

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

There is something special about praying with others. Jesus himself said.

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

There is more power in prayer when a corporate group prays!

These are some of the benefits in obeying the Lord, but what you need to realize is that if you love the Lord you will want to obey Him and assemble yourselves together. Even if you do not perceive these benefits to be worth it!

In other words, what if you don't think you're getting anything out of the message.. CAN YOU KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS? What benefit did Jesus get when he went to the Synagogue as his custom was:

Luke 4:16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

Was there anything they could teach him in His synagogue?  
Did he need their fellowship?

Why was He Baptized of John? Did He need to be baptized? John was hesitant in baptizing Him.

HE DID ALL THIS BECAUSE HE WANTED TO OBEY EVERYTHING THAT WAS COMMANDED OF HIM SO HE WAS THE PERFECT MAN.

I recall years ago Selwyn Schmitt coming to church with a busted up back. He came and I am sure he got little out of the service because he was in so much pain but he came because he was supposed to come.

I remember Bob Snyder many years ago coming to church right from work. He got no sleep and half of the service he was asleep. But he came not for what he got but for what he could give!

I could go on and on and tell of some of the old timers that were faithful to this church not necessarily for what benefits they received but because they loved the Lord and wanted to obey his command to assemble themselves together!

### ***Conclusion:***

If you love me keep my commandments!

Which?

This morning we gave you the most basic of the basics.

- 1. Acts 17:30 .... (He).. commandeth all men every where to repent:***
- 2. HE COMMANDS ALL THAT ARE SAVED TO BE BAPTIZED..***
- 3. HE COMMANDS ALL THAT ARE SAVED AND BAPTIZED TO CONTINUE TOGETHER  
Doctrine, Fellowship, breaking bread, prayers.***

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

This is how we show we love Him when we keep His commandments!