

## What Does God Want from Us?

### 1. If you asked a number of people on the street this question, what would be your most common responses?

- Obedience?
- Devotion?
- Worship?
- Service?

### 2. Jesus was quite clear on what God wants

*Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.*

1 John 5:1 (NIV)

**God wants us to LOVE him.**

### 3. Why is this the desire of God?

- ❖ Because God IS love and He loves us.
  1. *We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. **God is love.*** 1 John 4:16a (NASB)
  2. *How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!* 1 John 3:1a (NIV)
  3. *Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved.* Ephesians 2:4-5 (NIV)

WHY does love come first?? Because all the rest (obedience, devotion, worship and service) automatically flow from a true heart of love.

**Love will do what no other motivation will attempt!**

### 4. Jesus explained this truth to His disciples

*"God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son."*

John 3:16a (NASB)

*"The world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me."* John 14:31a (NIV)

### 5. Jesus made it clear that "love" had to be our motivation if we were going to be His disciples (and note the promise!)

*"If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever."* John 14:15-16 (NIV)

*Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.*

John 14:23-24a (NIV)

### 6. The Apostle John got the message and passed it on

*This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome.*

1 John 5:2-3 (NIV)

*And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.* 2 John 1:6 (NIV)

### 7. Jesus helped Peter get back in focus after the betrayal

*When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, **do you truly love me more than these?**" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, **do you truly love me?**" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "**Do you love me?**" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep.*

John 21:15-17 (NIV)

*Jesus said: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."*

Matthew 22:37-40 (NIV)

*We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.*

1 John 4:19-21 (NIV)