

EXPRESSING MY LOVE FOR GOD

Matthew 22:37-38 – “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.” (NIV)

What is worship?

1. Expressing my love for God publicly.
2. Expressing my love for God privately.

Gregory Godek: “*Ten Thousand Ways To Say I Love You.*” (2009)

Three goals for today’s message...

1. Help you feel more loved by God.
2. Remind you of some ways to express your love for God.
3. Encourage you to move to a deeper level of worship and fellowship with Lord.

1. I EXPRESS LOVE FOR GOD IS BY SINGING TO HIM

Psalm 147:7 – “Sing out your thanks to Him. Sing praises to our God” (Living)

Psalm 100:1a – “*Make a joyful noise to the Lord.*” (King James)

James 5:13 – “*Anyone who is happy should sing praises*” (New Century)

“*The only thing better than singing is more singing.*” (Ella Fitzgerald. 1917-1996. American jazz singer)

“*Singing is a way of escaping. It's another world. I'm no longer on earth.*” (Edith Piaf. 1915-1963. French international singing star).

2. I EXPRESS LOVE FOR GOD THROUGH COMMUNICATION & PRAYER

Psalm 116:1-2 – “*I love the Lord because He hears me and answers my prayer, because He bends down and listens. I will pray as long as I have breath.*” (New Living)

3. I EXPRESS LOVE FOR GOD BY

How does God speak to me?

- [1] Through the Bible.
- [2] Through life experiences.
- [3] Through trials. (Psalm 119:67)
- [4] Through the advice of godly people.
- [5] Through the ideas He puts in your mind.

*An idea from God is called an inspiration

*An idea from Satan is called a temptation

1 Corinthians 6:12 – *“I can do anything I want to if Christ has not said no, but some of these things aren’t good for me. Even if I am allowed to do them, I’ll refuse to if I think they might get such a grip on me that I can’t easily stop when I want to.”* (Living)

4. I EXPRESS LOVE FOR GOD BY PUBLICLY IDENTIFYING WITH HIM

Baptism & Communion

Mark 8:38 – *“If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”* (NIV)

Matthew 10:33 – *“But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.”* (NIV)

Baptism makes three powerful public statements:

[1] Baptism says, “I believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus.”

Romans 6:3 – *“When we went under the water we left the old country of sin behind and when we came up out of the water we entered into the new country of grace, a new life in a new land. That’s what the baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it’s like the burial of Jesus; when we’re raised up out of the water it’s like the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”* (Message)

[2] Baptism says, “I have died to my old lifestyle.”

Colossians 2:12 – *“Going under the water was a burial of your old life.*

Coming up out of it was a resurrection, God raising you from the dead as He did in Christ.” (Message)

[3] *Baptism gives me new life in Christ.*

Galatians 3:27 – “Your baptism in Christ was not just washing you up for a fresh start. It also involved dressing you in an adult faith wardrobe, Christ’s life, the fulfillment of God’s original promise.” (Message)

John 14:15 – “If you love me, you will obey my commands.” (New Century)

Communion makes three powerful public statements:

- [1] Communion says, “*I am not afraid to publicly identify my faith in Christ.*”
- [2] Communion says, “*I am publicly identifying my love for Christ.*”
- [3] Communion says, “*I want to be closer to Christ.*”

5. I EXPRESS LOVE FOR GOD BY BEING COMMITTED TO HIM

Romans 12:1 – “Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work and walking-around life – and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him” (Message)

Five basic commitments we take seriously

- [1] Committing my life to Jesus by being baptized for forgiveness of my sins (Acts 2:38).
- [2] Committing my life to His church family, the body of Christ (Romans 12:4-5).
- [3] Committing myself to spiritual growth & Christlikeness (2 Corinthians 3:18).
- [3] Committing myself to using my talents and gifts in helping others (1 Peter 4:10).
- [4] Committing myself to sharing God’s Word (Acts 8:4).

What Jesus did for me on the cross:

- [1] He saved me from the penalty of sin.
- [2] He gives me power to make changes.
- [3] He offers me an eternal home in heaven.