



Would Jesus agree that you love Him?

During breakfast, Jesus asked the Apostle Peter three times if he loved Him. Peter answered with a loud, confident, sincere yes, he even called on Jesus to be a witness of his love for Him. Like Peter, if we were asked today if we love Jesus we too would respond with a loud, sincere and confident yes Lord! We would have no problem showing our love for Jesus by the things we do and the things we don't do. We would proudly show the pictures of Jesus, the jewelry we wear, the bibles/bible books we buy, the love and tolerance of others and our church attendance all as proof that we love Jesus.

The most important question about our love for Jesus is does Jesus agree? Does Jesus think we love Him? When we define love for Jesus is it the same definition Jesus uses? It is easy to say yes, but would that be a correct statement? The only way to know for sure that we are using the same definition that Jesus used is by looking at His word (Isaiah 55:8-9). Remember, Jesus said that there would be religious people who call Him "Lord" and are involved in many good works who would still be condemned to hell (Matthew 7:21-23). It is clear, all who call Jesus "Lord" and do many good things in His name would also gladly say that they love Him. So why are they being condemned?

The answer lies in finding out how God defines our love for Him, and the way to do that is to go to His Word. We can look at John 3:16 or 1 John 3:16. How does God define loving Him? Repeatedly, the Scriptures make it clear that loving God is equal with obeying God (John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 1 John 5:3). In fact, obeying God is how we come to know Him as well as to love Him (1 John 2:3-5). So, if we obey God, we love Him. If we choose to unrepentantly disobey God, you don't love him.

Do we love God? Yes, we all say we do. We sincerely think that we do, and in many areas of our lives we do. Are we willing to obey God even if His revealed will in the Scriptures goes against our most personal thinking? Are we willing to put God above even family, even above self? When we disobey Him, are we willing to repent? Are we willing to obey Him no matter what?

In closing I leave you with two scriptures to ponder:

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" Luke 6:46

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments." John 14:15

Obedience to Jesus is the only way we truly show how much we sincerely love God.