

# Loving God

**1. The believer responds to God's love and favor. Deut. 6:4–7.** “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.”

**2. Jesus calls us to love God above all else. He summarizes the Law as a matter of love. Matt. 22:37–39.** Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

**3. Christ's love for us must compel us to love and serve him. 2 Cor. 5:14–15.** For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

**4. Hold fast to the Lord and out of love keep his commandments. Josh. 22:5.** “But take careful heed to do the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, to

walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

**5. To love Jesus is to obey his teaching. John 14:23–24.**

Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.”

**6. Solomon tells us to respond to God’s favor by serving him from the heart. 1 Kings 8:56–61. 1 Kings 8:61.** “Let your heart therefore be loyal to the Lord our God, to walk in His statutes and keep His commandments, as at this day.”

**7. David’s charge to his son Solomon, to serve God with wholehearted devotion, is good for all of us. 1 Chron. 28:9.** “As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever.”

**8. Motivated by love, reject partying and all sinful pleasures. Instead, put on Christ. Rom. 13:13–14.** Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and

drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

**9. God's love for us should move us to strive for purity.**

**2 Cor. 7:1.** Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.