

The Christian Arsenal

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HOW TO TELL GOD YOU LOVE HIM Essentials for 21st Century Living

Dr. Ken Culver

Part 8 of 9

The essence of the Christian life can be summed up in two words "love affair". The most important thing you can know in life is that God loves you. And the most important thing you can do in life is to love Him back.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your ind. This is the first and greatest commandment." Matt. 23:37-38 (NIV)

"Expressing my love to God" is called worship

1. BY SINGING TO HIM

"Sing out your thanks to Him; sing praises to our God..." Ps. 147:7 (LB)
You need principles for your head and music for your heart. You need to worship God. Music inspires, it refreshes, it rejuvenates; it revitalizes.

Regularly Occasionally Rarely

2. BY TALKING WITH HIM

"I love the Lord because He hears and answers my prayers. Because He bends down and listens, I will pray as long as I have breath!!" Ps 116: 1-2 (NLT)

Prayer is not some duty that you have to do. It is a privilege that you get to do.

Regularly Occasionally Rarely

3. BY LISTENING TO HIM

How does God speak to us?

1. The Bible
2. Experiences
3. Trials
4. Other people
5. Impressions

"I am the good shepherd I know my own sheep, and they know Me ... and they listen to My voice." John 10:14,16 (NLT)

Regularly Occasionally Rarely

4. BY PUBLICLY IDENTIFYING WITH HIM

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"If anyone is ashamed of Me and My teaching then I will be ashamed of him when I come with the glory of My Father ..." Mark 8:38 (ICB)

2 WAYS: COMMUNION & BAPTISM

COMMUNION

What did Jesus do when He died for us?

1. He saved us from the penalty of sin. Theological term: Justification
2. He saves us from the power of sin. Theological term: Sanctification
3. He saves us from the presence of sin. Theological term: Glorification

When we take communion we do several things:

1. We publicly identify our faith in Christ.
2. We publicly identify our love for Christ.
3. We publicly state that we want to be closer to Christ.

Jesus paid for three things in your life.

1. He paid for your forgiveness.
2. He paid for your freedom.
3. He paid for your future.

"Eye has not seen nor ear heard neither had entered into the heart of man the wonderful things God has prepared for those who love Him" I Cor. 2:9

BAPTISM

Baptism makes three powerful public statements.

"When we went under the water, we left the old country of sin behind; 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 baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus." Rom 6:3 (Mes)

1. It says "I believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus."
2. It's a picture of what happens to you.

"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 Christ." Col. 2:12 (Mes)

3. It symbolizes your new life in Jesus Christ.

"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." Gal 3:27 (Mes)

Regularly

Occasionally

Rarely

5. BY BEING COMMITTED TO HIM

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1. Love is really all about commitment. You are becoming whatever you are committed to.
2. Weak people are defined by their circumstances, but strong people are defined by their commitments.

“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.”

Rom. 12:1 (Mes)

3. What does it mean to be fully committed to God? There are five basic commitments.
 - a. Giving my life to Jesus Christ.
 - b. Committing my life to His family, the body of Christ, the church and joining a church family.
 - c. Choosing to grow spiritually and become more and more like Jesus Christ everyday in my character.
 - d. Using my talents and gifts in helping others. We call that ministry and talked about that last week.
 - e. Sharing the good news with other people and fulfilling the mission and purpose God put me on this earth to do.

***[Baseball diamond insert]**

Regularly

Occasionally

Rarely

6. BY GIVING TO HIM.

Giving at its core is the essence of love. You can give without loving but you cannot love without giving.

“Just as you excel in faith, in speech, in knowledge and in complete earnestness ... see that you also excel in the grace of giving. I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love.” 2 Cor. 8:7-8 (NIV)

God tests the sincerity of your love by looking at your giving.

I have discovered that there are really basically two kinds of people in life – cheerful givers and fearful givers.

Regularly

Occasionally

Rarely

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***Baseball Diamond Insert** *This needs to look more like a baseball diamond.
My talents are limited. Ken says it doesn't need to be on the bulletin, but he would like it on the power point – inserted where indicated. Shanna – take out the words “baseball diamond insert” Any questions, just call him

