



Do You Love Me?

Peter responded to Jesus, ***“Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.”*** --Jn. 21:17

Do you remember when Jesus asked Peter this question? And Pete did love the Lord, even though he basically fell flat on his face when he denied Christ. Man, can you imagine how he must have felt? Peter never ever wanted to deny Jesus. Now he wanted to be extremely cautious so as never to let Him down again. I think he learned his lesson the hard way, don't you? No more would Simon Peter boast in the flesh of his love for Jesus. That's always an unwise thing for any believer to do.

Self-confidence can be so dangerous to our walk. Nowhere in the Scriptures does God encourage His kids to boast of how much they love Him. Instead, we are to boast of His selfless agape for us! We are to boldly brag on Christ's boundless love for each one of us. Please don't tell me how you love Jesus Christ more than the others do, how much you have done for Him, how wonderful a servant you are, how much you have given up for Him. No, no, no—please just tell people how much He has done for you, how hugely He sacrificed for you, how much He has given up so you can know the Father intimately ...tell me all that He has worked out in your spiritual life so you can walk in victory! Tell me (and more importantly, the lost) about the wonderful Person and work of Jesus!

The Bible says, ***“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends”*** (Jn. 15:13).

It says, ***“God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”*** (Rom. 5:8).

*I know not why God's wondrous grace
To me He hath made known;
Nor why, unworthy, Christ in love
Redeemed me for His own. --Whittle*

What an enormous L-O-V-E!

Now, I've heard it said that there are only two kinds of people in this world: 1.) Those who have found Christ's love in a born again experience and 2.) Those who are still looking for it. I talk with people every day who are looking in all the wrong places. Some

are watching me so close to see if I stumble. Some tell me they just don't want to hear about Him.

But have you taken hold of God's love? Yes, that kind of love is what the whole world is looking for. Is that love big in you or do you just feign love at church? How can we consistently share Christ's love in a love-hungry-world if we don't spend a lot of time alone with the God of love? And how can we tell if a person really loves the Lord?

A person who really loves the Lord will long for personal communion with God -- lots of quiet time apart with Him. Yes, away from the hustle and bustle of life to hear His voice ...no matter how many Christians tell them they ought to give more or be doing more work for God to please Him. The psalmist said, ***"As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God"*** (Psalm 42:1).

A person who really loves the Lord will love the things the Lord loves and hate the things He hates. The Apostle Paul wrote, ***"Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good"*** (Rom. 12:9).

A person who really loves the Lord will long for the return of Jesus. The Apostle John prayed, ***"Even so, come, Lord Jesus!"*** (Rev. 22:20).

A person who really loves the Lord will keep His commandments. Jesus Himself said, ***"If you love Me, keep My commandments"*** (Jn. 14:15).

If you really love God, it will be shown in your life and attitude. ***"Do you love me?"*** Jesus said to Peter. ***"And he said to Him, 'Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You'"*** (Jn. 21:17).

Via the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ is still asking that same question of all of us. ***"Do you love me?"*** I wonder what our answer would be.

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