

Text: Various

Title: Lord's Table: A Warm Love for the Lord

Truth: God wants us to warmly love Him with all our heart.

Date/Location: Sunday September 6, 2026 at FBC

Introduction

Our goal tonight is to think of the level of warmth of our love for the Lord.

I. What is Love

We know that Lord works out to be obeying God and Christ's commands John 14:15, 21, 23, 15:10; 1 John 5:2-3.

We know that love for God means we live for God, 2 Cor. 5:14-15.

In our character series, we saw love for God and neighbor is emphatically commanded throughout the Bible.

We know that all of us are to love God with all we are. Every aspect of our being: mind, heart, soul, strength. Every human capacity fits under one or more of these words – the material, immaterial, ego, inner self, etc.

In loving God, humans will find their greatest good and joy.

II. Examples of Jesus's Tender Love for People

Now let us consider the love of Jesus for people such as ourselves so we can be better informed of how God loves us.

Peter's mother-in-law

Many healings Jesus did, the details of which are not recorded, but certainly included expressions of love and compassion all along.

The leper – "I am willing, be cleansed."

(Here is the thing I am thinking with these examples: people tend to get caught up in the amazement of the miracle, and there is that aspect where it authenticates and points to God and causes wonder. But think of the Lord's care and compassion. The miracle is a powerful way He could demonstrate that care, not the most important thing about all the interactions.)

Paralyzed man let down through the roof. Forgave his sins and healed.

Eating with tax collectors and sinners.

Woman caught in adultery

Widow in Nain whose son died

Jairus, whose daughter died

The woman with a prolonged bleeding, perhaps menorrhagia (meh-nor-a'-gee-ah")

Demon-possessed man. "What is your name?" Maybe Jesus cared for the man such as to ask his name, but the demon interrupted and gave his own answer.

Greek woman's daughter healed in Tyre and Sidon.

The touch of healing a man's eyes, or ears shows love.

Feeding people shows love—thousands of times over.

The man who cried out to help his unbelief when his son was so grievously affected by a demon.

The children...they brought children to Him and he held them and blessed them.

Jesus loved the rich young ruler.

His care for Mary who anointed him, protecting her from the criticism of some of the disciples.

Going to see Peter and restoring him after his three denials.

Of course, greater love cannot be demonstrated than giving your life for others, as Jesus did for us.

All the examples above are reflected toward us, not just uniquely toward those present in the first century. After Jesus ascended, he exercises that kind of love toward all his children.

Significance: We love God because He first loved us (1 John 4:19).

With love as tender as compassionate as what we have seen here, we have a high calling to live up to, and a great reason to love God because of His love for us.

III. Our Walk with God is Relational

- A. Think of a close relationship, with warmth, talking, spending time near each other, deep conversations, lots of effort put into the relationship, patience with one another.
- B. Then think of a cool, distant relationship. What things characterize it? The opposite of a warm one: little talking, time apart, lack of interest, low effort, surface-level only conversations, lonely feeling even if near one another, distracted, do not talk on difficult subjects, looking to others for support, different atmosphere, easily irritated, less or no eye contact, less affection, stonewalling, rejection.
- C. There are clear parallels to our relationship with God. That relationship may be less “sappy” and not prone to romantic-type feelings, but it is more important. And warmth in it is critical. Because warmth equals reality, meaningfulness, impact.

IV. A Warm Love for God

We will find a lot of material for this topic in the Psalms, as you might expect.

Psalms 18:1 – at the core of your being

Psalms 116:1 – because

Psalms 84:2 – all encompassing

Psalms 27:4 – focus

Psalms 42:1-2

Psalms 63:1-8

Psalms 73:25-26

Matthew 5:6 – righteousness is next to God. Hunger for it is like love for it.

Phil 3:8 – knowing Christ above all

John 21:15-17 Peter’s love for the Lord

Conclusion

We are asking ourselves tonight if our love for the Lord is like that. Do we really walk in love with the Lord? Is our relationship warm or distant? Talkative or quiet?

As we gather around the Table of the Lord Jesus tonight, let us ask His help to warm up our love for Him and live for him in a closer walk with Him.

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