

What it means to love God - Outline

November 4, 2018

Jesus replied, "You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: Love your neighbor as yourself. (Matthew 22:37–39, NLT)

God created us because He wanted to be friends with us.

1. A friendship with God involves us believing in God.

And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him. (Hebrews 11:6, NLT)

The story of Abraham and Sarah

And Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD counted him as righteous because of his faith. (Genesis 15:6, NLT)

2. A friendship with God involves us worshiping God.

The eyes of the LORD search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. (2 Chronicles 16:9, NLT)

How do I know that I am worshiping God?
Ask yourself, what do I treasure most?

Ask yourself, what do I worry about?

Ask yourself, what am I willing to sacrifice?

Your answer to these questions will tell you what you worship.

3. A friendship with God involves us abiding with God.

Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. (John 15:4, NLT)

Abiding involves listening to God.

Discern where the Spirit of God is leading you.

Make time for rest.

Listen to what God is saying through godly people in your life.

Allow God to speak to you through your circumstances.

Abiding involves obeying what God prompts you to do.

Abiding involves a daily choice to live in the Presence of God.

Remain in me, and I will remain in you. (John 15:4a, NLT)

Digging Deeper

Further study for individuals and groups

Opening Discussion

Describe your closest human friendship. What characteristics make it strong?

Read John 15:15-17

What do these verses say about Jesus relationship with his disciples?

What kind of relationship did they have at first?

What kind of relationship did Jesus want to have with them from this point on?

What is the difference between a servant and a friend?

Explain or Discuss.

Read John 15:16

Who initiated this friendship?

Read Luke 15:1-2

What kind of friends did Jesus have?

Do you have to be perfect to be called his friend?

Read Luke 19:5-9

How does Jesus friendship change people?

Read John 13:34-35

How does Jesus ask his friends to treat other people?

What does a conversation look like with a very close friend compared to a very distant friend?

What stands in the way of deepening your friendship with Jesus? Explain.

The friendship we enjoy with Jesus is meant to be shared by loving others. What specific ways will you reach out to others in friendship this week?