

LOVE FOR CHRIST



INTRODUCTION

- What kind of church does God want Calvary to be?
- Methods and programs matter, but the _____ of our church matters even more (1 Sam. 16:7).
- Five Features of the Family of God

TEARS OF LOVE (LUKE 7:36-50)

- Anointing was an act of _____ and sacrifice
- Jesus knew who this was and what she had _____
- The parable of two debtors shows the _____ of our sin (vv. 41-43)
- We were all saved from either godless _____ or self-righteous _____ (Rom. 3:23).
- Jesus said this woman was forgiven because of her _____ (Lk. 7:50)

THE IMPORTANCE OF LOVE

- Loving God is the _____ commandment and summary of the law (Luke 10:27)
- Saving faith always results in a heartfelt _____ for Christ (1 Peter 1:8)
- The church of Ephesus was rebuked because they had _____ their first love (Rev. 2:4)
- Love is the greatest virtue, and will continue on into _____ (1 Cor. 13:12-13)
- We love because he _____ loved us (1 John 4:19)
- It is the love of Christ that compels us to be _____ for Christ (2 Cor. 5:14-15)

PROOF OF LOVE

- Those who love the Father will equally love the _____ (John 8:42; 1 Jn. 5:1-2)
- If we love him, we will _____ his commandments (Jn. 14:15, 23-24). We view the New Testament commands and the means of grace as ways to know Christ better and love him more.
- Sometimes the church gains a reputation for what it is *against* rather than what it is *for*. Our identity is found in Christ. That means we will learn to love the things he loves, as well as hate the things he hates. We oppose sin, not because we claim to be perfect or think ourselves better, but because we know we are sinners saved by grace who are now called to _____.
- Emotions are a natural part of love, but they are not foolproof. Our worship should be in both spirit and in _____ (Jn. 4:23). Worship is biblical, emotional, done decently and in order to the glory of God.
- If we love him, we will love our brothers and sisters also (1 John 4:20). This love is the distinguishing _____ of the Christian and is how the world knows we are his disciples (Jn. 13:34-35)
- We will even learn to love our _____, created in God's image who need salvation (Matt. 5:44)

LOVE FOR CHRIST IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

- We will determine to _____ nothing but Jesus Christ, and him crucified (1 Cor. 2:2)
- We will celebrate our mutual love for Christ. Whatever differences we may have in age, style, culture, or preference, we have this most important thing in common as the _____ of Christ (Eph. 5:22-33).
- We will approach our gatherings as worshippers rather than _____. Our main goal is not to cater to unbelievers or have all of our own personal preferences, but to honor Christ. Unbelievers will hopefully be present every Sunday to hear the gospel, but we don't craft the service around them.
- We will practice the _____ (Baptism and the Lord's Supper) in regular and meaningful ways.
- We will spend time in _____ together, knowing love involves communication and quality time together.
- We will obey Jesus' instructions on church _____ when necessary, in order to protect the purity and integrity of the body (Matt. 18:15-17)
- John Piper: "True Christianity is loving Christ and trusting Christ and enjoying Christ. In other words, Christianity is first and foremost a matter of the heart (love, trust, and joy), not a matter of external performances."