

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LOVE JESUS CHRIST?

I John 5:1

"Whosoever believeth" - πιστευων - Pres Act Ptc - absolutely persuaded therefore to place total confidence in - not credence but reliance! Used of John 9:9. *John 3:16; 11:25-26; 12:46

"that Jesus is the Christ" Acts 2:30-36

"is born of God" - γεγεννηται - Pres Pass Ind - used in the passive voice as a gracious act of God giving new birth and freedom in the spirit. John 3:1-7; I Peter 1:23

"and every one that loveth him that begat" - αγαπων - Pres Act Ptc - gennhsanta - Aor Act

"loveth him also that is begotten of him" - γεγεννημενον εξ αυτου - Perf Pass Ptc - Jesus is the only begotten of the father (Jn 1:14), it shows the true character of Jesus as God, represents the true character of the one who sends. John 1:18; 3:16,18; I John 4:9

We too are begotten of Him but a different word is used. How much do we love Him? Where do we really stand with God? This is a tested love! All love is tested in some way or another. When we love our wife or children the world must find out about it. BUT when we love the Lord Jesus it seems that we must be quiet or reserved.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO REALLY LOVE CHRIST?

This love is described as the attitude of God toward His Son (John 17:26), and toward the human race (John 3:16), and to those who put their faith and trust in Him (John 14:21)

Love can be known only from the action it prompts. God's love is seen in the gift of His Son (I John. 4:9).

It was the exercise of the divine will in deliberate choice. It is God's nature! Love had its true expression among men in the Lord. 2 Cor. 5:14-15; Eph. 2:4; 3:19

1. Christian love is the fruit of HIS Spirit in Gal 5:22

2. Christian love has the Lord for its primary object and shows itself in obedience to His commandments. Jn 14:15,21,23; 15:10

3. Christian love is not by impulse or just by feeling, nor does it run the natural human tendency * love seeks the welfare of all (Rom. 15:2)

* love seeks good for all men (Gal 6:10)

*works no wrong (I Cor 13:8-10)

We are partakers of the perfect love of God to be then developed in our lives to the extent that God is then honored and men come to Christ.

5:2 The First Proof of Our Love For One Another is Our Continued Love For God - *By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, - cf. 3:14; 4:20,21*

The outward and inward genuine love (consciousness of love to God manifested in keeping His commandments). When we have this inwardly and outwardly confirmed love to God, we can know assuredly that we truly love the children of God.

For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Rom. 13:8

Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD. Lev. 19:18

Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Matt. 19:19

And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. Mark 12:31

If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: James 2:8

The Second Proof of Our Love For One Another is Keeping The Commandments - *and keep his commandments. - Cf. 3:9; 2 John 1:6;*

If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my

Father's commandments, and abide in his love. John 15:10

It Is Not A Burden to Keep the Commandments - 5:3 *For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.*

His commandments are not heavy. This does not mean that they are difficult to keep but rather that they do not impose a burden when they are kept. John is saying that the child of God wants to keep His commandments. It is something that he wants to practice; it is not difficult for him to do these things at all.

“The little girl who was carrying a big, heavy baby was asked by a concerned woman, "Little girl, isn't that baby too heavy for you?" The child replied, "He's not heavy. He's my brother." It makes all the difference in the world, you see, when he's your brother. "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." The point is that they impose no burden on us because we are keeping them through love.” McGee

“The story is told about a man and his family who years ago drove into a little town in Oklahoma in a covered wagon. They stopped at the town store to talk to the owner as he sat on an apple box out in front of the store. "What kind of town is this here?" they asked him. The storekeeper said, "Well, what kind of town did you come from?" "Oh," the man said, "we came from a wonderful town. Everybody there seemed to know each other, and had a concern for each other. They were very wonderful people. We really hated to leave, but we wanted to move west. We're not sure where to settle down. What kind of town is this?" The storekeeper said, "This is just the same kind of town which you left. It's that kind of town." The man said, "Well, then, I think maybe we'll settle here," and they drove on down the street.

In a little while another covered wagon drove up in front of the little store. The man asked the storekeeper, "What kind of town is this?" So the storekeeper again said, "What kind of town did you leave?" "We were glad to get away from it," the man said. "They were some of the meanest people that I have ever met. They were never very neighborly or very helpful. We never had any friends there, and that's the reason we left." The storekeeper told him. "Well, I think you are going to find this is the same kind of town. We are the same kind of people." And the second man decided to drive on.

Another citizen of the town who had been sitting there with the storekeeper said, "Wait a minute! What do you mean by giving those two men two different viewpoints of this town?" And the storekeeper replied, "I've learned that any town will be the same kind of town that you have left -- because you will be the same kind of person."

May I say to you, the child of God ought to recognize that he is not to be looking for someone to do something for him, but he is to be expressing love in real action and in real concern for others. "*By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another*" (John 13:35). If you love the Lord Jesus, if you love your heavenly Father, you are going to love other believers. You will know that you are keeping His commandments, and they will not be a burden to you at all. The Lord Jesus said, "*For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light*" (Matt. 11:30). It will be heavy unless you have the real love for the Lord and you truly want to serve Him. Then church work and other ministries will never become difficult." McGee/Ironside

Victory Over Sin Should Be The Norm When We Walk With Christ -

5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

What is it that overcomes the world? It is our faith. It is faith that saves us, and it is faith that keeps us. We are saved by faith; we walk by faith. We are born children of God by faith in Jesus Christ, and faith is the only way in which you and I will be able to overcome this world around us.

We have an enemy, and John has talked about this enemy before: "*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world*" (1John 2:15). There is in the world that which is of the flesh, that which is of the world, and that which is of the Devil.

OT Illustration: It is the story of Joshua and the children of Israel entering the Promised Land. Canaan represents a condition in which believers ought to be living on earth. We can live out in the wilderness, or we can cross Jordan. There's no fun out in the wilderness. The wilderness march was not easy. But the land of Canaan is where we are blessed with all spiritual blessings.

When Joshua entered the land, it was not handed to him on a silver platter. If we are to enjoy the spiritual blessings which are ours, they may be a battle to fight; the enemy holds the territory, and he is not going to let us have any kind of deliverance or victory without a battle. When Joshua entered the Promised Land, there were three enemies that stood before him. Until he overcame them, he was not able to take the land.

The first enemy was Jericho, and Jericho represents the world. That was the first place Joshua struck. It was obvious that what he was trying to do was to split the land into two divisions and then take one at a time.

Then the second enemy was little Ai which represents the flesh. Joshua sent a small

contingent up there, thinking it would be easy to take, but that is the one place where he received a great defeat.

Teaching Point: there are Christians who overcome the world, but they are always overcome by the flesh. In other words, there are many saints who don't engage in worldly practices, but they go to church and gossip -- they indulge the flesh. They can blow the trumpet around Jericho, but they don't blow the trumpet around Ai.

Then finally there were the Gibeonites who represent the Devil. They deceived Joshua. The Devil was a liar from the beginning. He still deceives and works wily.

"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world." If you are a child of God, you are going to overcome the world. How will you gain the victory? "And this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

It is not by fighting but by faith. How did this man Joshua overcome Jericho? Jericho was the enemy which was out in front of him, and he had to take the city. How was he going to take the city? By fighting it? He did not fight it at all, but God told him what to do. God said, I want you to put the priests in front with the ark of the covenant, and carry horns, and the trumpets are to be blown as they go around the city. But you are not to make an attack upon the city.

I am sure that the city of Jericho had braced itself for the onslaught of these people who had crossed the Jordan River. So they shut up their city, ready to defend themselves against Israel. I think that their guard up on the gate gave the signal. As Israel marched up to the gate, you must remember that there was an army on the inside ready and waiting for them. But when the children of Israel came up to the gate, they made a right face and kept on marching. They marched once around the walls of the city, and then they went back into camp!

Do you think that the cities leaders and soldiers had a meeting in the city of Jericho that night to try to figure out the strategy that Israel was using against them. As best they could, they prepared themselves for the next day when the guard on the gate again yelled down and said, "Here they come!" They braced themselves for the battle in case Israel tried to break through the gates. Probably there were soldiers up on top ready to pour boiling oil or water down upon them and to shoot arrows, but Israel didn't attempt to come through. They simply marched around the city again, and they repeated that for six days.

On the seventh day, the priests of Israel blew the trumpets, the people shouted, and the walls of Jericho fell down! The children of Israel probably completely encircled the

city, and when the walls of Jericho fell down, the army on the inside was certainly taken by surprise.

How did the children of Israel take the city of Jericho? By fighting? They did not fight at all. They were marching around according to the order given not by Joshua but by that unseen Captain of the host of the Lord.

Joshua was obeying orders. He was being obedient. He believed the Captain. Hebrews 11 tells us, "By faith the walls of Jericho fell down . . ." (Heb. 11:30). It wasn't by fighting or military skills but by faith that the walls of Jericho fell down.

We cannot overcome the world by fighting it. "The Lord called me to fish in the fishpond, but He never told me to clean up the fishpond.

Although he had the army, Joshua's business was not to fight. His business was to believe God. He believed God, and the walls fell down.

I John 5:6-8

DISTINCTION	THE FATHER	THE SON	THE HOLY SPIRIT
Omnipotent	Gen. 18:14; Isa. 43:13; Matt. 19:26; Jer. 32:17,27	Dan. 7:13,14; Matt. 28:18; John 3:31,35; 17:2; I Pet. 3:22	Psalm 104:30
Omnipresent	I Kings 8:27; Ps. 139:3,7-10; Prov. 15:3; Jer. 23:23,24; Isa. 57:17; Acts 17:24-28	Matt. 18:29; 28:19-20; Eph. 1:23	Psalm 139:7-10
Omniscient	I Chron. 28:9; 2 Chron. 6:30; Job 34:21,22; Ps. 139:1-6, 11; Isa. 48:5; 66:18; Rom. 11:33-36; I John 3:20	John 4:25-29; 6:64; 13:11; 19:28; John 2:24,25; 5:42; John 6:6,16,19,30; Matt. 9:4; 12:25; 22:18; Mark 2:8; 12:15; Acts 1:24	Isa. 40:13; John 14:26; I Cor. 2:10-11
Immutable	Malachi 3:6	Heb. 13:8	I Cor. 12:4

<p>Eternal</p>	<p>Gen. 21:33; Ex. 3:14; Ps. 90:2; 102:27; Isa. 41:4; Rom. 1:23; 16:27; Rev. 4:8; I Tim. 1:17; 6:16</p>	<p>Isa. 44:6; 48:12; I Tim. 1:17; 6:16; Rev. 1:4- 8,11,17; 2:8; 21:6; 22:13; Heb. 7:25; John 1:1-3,10; 3:13; John 6:62; 8:35,58</p>	<p>Heb. 9:14; Gen. 1:2- 3; Job 26:13; Job 33:4; Ps. 104:30; Judg. 3:10; I Sam. 10:6,10; I Sam. 16:13,14; Isa. 11:2; 42:1; 48:16; Isa. 61:1; 63:9</p>
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