

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

September 10

2023

Prove Your Love For The LORD Your God

When Jesus was asked, “Which is the first (or foremost) commandment of all? He answered with, “The first of all the commandments is: Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment” (Mark 12:28-30).

Now, this love that Jesus is talking about when He says, love the LORD your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, is not a love that can be demonstrated by a mere verbal expression, but rather is an all-encompassing love that can only be demonstrated from the actions it prompts.

You see, there are many today who say they love the LORD, but sadly, their actions do not speak louder than their words. However, if one truly loves the LORD, their actions will speak louder than their words. So with this thought in mind, let’s take a look at what the Scriptures say about what those who truly love the LORD our God will do to prove their love to Him.

Those Who Truly Love The LORD Will Keep Every One of His Commandments.

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ said, “If you love Me,

keep My commandments” (John 14:15). Simply put, our Lord was saying, if you love Me, you will keep My commandments. You see, obedience to the Lord and His will is proof of one’s love for Him; for one cannot truly profess to love the Lord, and be disobedient to His commandments.

Those Who Truly Love The LORD Will Love Him More Than Anyone Else.

In Luke 14:26, we find these words of the Lord Jesus, “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate (i.e. love less) his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.” You see, the Lord demands first place in one’s life, and He will not settle for second place in one’s life. Therefore, if one truly loves the Lord, they will love Him more, and put Him and His will before all else, including anyone else, no matter what.

Those Who Truly Love The LORD Will Not Love The World or The Things In It.

John, inspired by the Holy Spirit wrote, “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (1 John 2:15). My friend, those inspired words of John cannot be more clear. Therefore, if one professes to love the LORD our God, but yet they are conformed to the ways of this world, and they pursue and value the things of this world more than the will of God, the love of the Father is evidently not in them. However, those who truly love the LORD our God more than the world or the things in it, understand that the world and the lust of it is passing away, and they will therefore pursue and value the will of God more than the world or the things in it, knowing that he who does the will of God abides forever (1 John 2:17).

Those Who Truly Love The LORD Will Help A Brother In Need.

We learn about the outworking of love in 1 John 3:16, when John declared, “By this we know love, because He (i.e. Jesus

Christ) laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. John went on to pen in verse 17, “But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? Simply put, refusal to help a brother in need when you are aware of his need, and have the resources to be able to help him in need shows that the love of God does not truly abide in you. However, on the flip side of that coin, one proves that the love of God abides in them when they have this world’s goods, sees a brother in need, and helps him. Knowing that, remember this exhortation from John, “My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:18).

Those Who Truly Love The LORD Will Love Their Brother Also.

Sadly, there are some today who claim to love the LORD, yet they despise some of their own brethren. However, John, guided by the Holy Spirit informed, “If someone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also” (1 John 4:20-21). Let those inspired words marinate in your thoughts, take heed to them, and remember, one truly proves their love for the LORD our God by sincerely expressing their love for their brethren also.

My friend, there are times when mere talk just doesn’t cut it. Therefore, if you truly profess to love the LORD our God, don’t just say it, but rather prove it by keeping His commandments, by putting Him first and loving Him more than anyone else, by refusing to love the world or the things in it, by helping a brother in need, and by expressing your sincere love toward all of your brethren, never forgetting, “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome” (1 John 5:3).

✍ Brad Phillips

God’s Plan of Salvation

Hear the word of God. (Romans 10:17)

Believe in Jesus Christ. (John 8:24)

Repent of your sins. (Acts 17:30)

Confess Jesus Christ. (Matthew 10:32)

Be baptized for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38)

Remain faithful unto death. (Revelation 2:10)

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth: to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” (Romans 1:16)

Belleville church of Christ

5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258

www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

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| Sunday Bible Study | 9:30 a.m. |
| Sunday Morning Worship | 10:30 a.m. |
| Sunday Evening Worship | 4:00 p.m. |
| Wednesday Bible Study | 7:00 p.m. |

Evangelist

Brad Phillips (765) 720-2816