

## "I Know I Am Loved"

When you have Christ in your life, you can say, "I know I am loved." Hello, I'm Phil Sanders, and this is a Bible study "In Search of the Lord's Way." And today, we're investigating the value of the love of Christ.

Welcome to In SEARCH of the Lord's Way! We're here to search the Scriptures for God's will. The God of the Bible is the God of love. In fact, God is love (1 John 4 verse 38). In ancient times the people feared their gods rather than loved or felt loved. But Yahweh, the God of the Bible is the only God (1 Timothy 1 and verse 17). He created us in His own image and He loves us. And we can be assured of this because the Bible shows how many ways He loves us. Thanks for taking time with us today. We'd love to hear from you and want to be a part of your life each week.

Now all this month, we're presenting a series of lessons with the theme, "When I Have Christ." We believe you'll be blessed by seeing the value of having Christ in your life. There's certainly a big difference between having Christ and not having Christ. If you do have Christ as your Lord and Savior, you'll be blessed beyond measure; but if you don't have Christ in your life, you're cheating yourself out of all the treasures of Christ in this life and in the life to come. Today we're focusing on knowing we are loved in Christ.

I recently spent a few weeks in South Korea teaching the gospel. My host during that week had been involved in prison ministry for many years. There are 44,000 prisoners in this country of 55 million people. And my friend had visited every prison in the nation. He said there was one thing that seemed common among all the prisoners: they grew up unloved. I tell ya, love is vital to our well-being, and being unloved is one of the most cruel things in the world. We can shout it on the housetops: when you have Christ, you are indeed loved!

Now we offer this series, "When I Have Christ," and this program, "I know I am loved," free! And if you'd like a printed copy and live in the United States, mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to [searchtv@searchtv.org](mailto:searchtv@searchtv.org). Or, you can call our toll-free telephone number. That number is 1-800-321-8633. We also have many free programs and materials on our website, [www.searchtv.org](http://www.searchtv.org). And you can also see us on YouTube.

We'll now worship in song, read from John 15:8 to 11, and explore how that with Christ, we can know we are loved.

Our reading today comes from the very word of Jesus. Found in the gospel according to John chapter 15 verses 8 to 11.

My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.

That's a reading from God's holy word. Let's pray together. Oh Father help us always to show our love to You by producing fruit and by keeping Your commandments. And Father help us always to abide in Your love and do Your will always. In Jesus name, Amen.

Ethan the Ezrahite sang in Psalm 89 verse 1, "I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations." Oh the love of God is certainly something to sing about! In his pain at the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC, Jeremiah wrote in Lamentations 3:22 to 25, "The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are

new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.' The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him."

The Lord Jesus said in John 3:16 to 17, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, (some say His only Son) that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him." The Lord Jesus is in the saving business because He knows our needs. And one of those is to be saved. And He knows we need to be saved from the guilt and consequences of sin. We need to be rescued from the evil in this world.

I don't care who you are, what you've done in the past, what you're doing now, or what other people say about you. God loves you, and the Lord Jesus loves you. God loves every single person. And each person has been made in His image and created by Him. Now you may not love yourself; others may despise you; but God loves and cares about you. He loved you enough to send His Son to this earth to die for your sins. He loves you enough to give you an opportunity to make a change in your life and become something better than what you have been. God wants you to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Now the Lord Jesus said in John 12:32, "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself." Jesus was lifted up when He bore the cross. And that sacrifice and suffering have a power to help us see the love of God. God's amazing and immeasurable love was demonstrated in the cross of Christ.

Romans 5:6 to 10 says, "For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man, though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life." God wanted to be reconciled to the people who sinned against Him and were His enemies. I confess to you that the love of God is greater than I can describe.

1 Peter 3 and verse 18 says, "For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, so that He might bring you to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit." Yes Jesus suffered to show you His love and to reconcile you to the Father in heaven, against Him, against whom rather, you have sinned. Now no matter how painful the suffering and agony of the cross was, Jesus remained there until He drew His very last breath. He never failed us and never gave up on us. And love means caring so much for another that you would sacrifice yourself, your desires, and even your life for the best interests of another.

People who have known the love of God, the love of the Lord Jesus, will also bless others with the love that they themselves enjoy. 1 John 4:19 says, "We love, because He first loved us." You see, God's love fills our hearts with love. And the love of Christ causes much love in all the world. Love teaches us kindness, forgiveness, and patience. Love "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails" (1 Corinthians 13:7 to 8).

Psalms 136 says 26 times that "His steadfast love endures forever." Now this "steadfast love" is a loyal love, full of grace and mercy. And it reveals God's covenant love. When we today are baptized into Christ, we enter the new covenant with Christ and enjoy His faithful love and favor, which includes redemption from sin. Now Exodus 34 and verse 6 describes our God as "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness."

I tell ya even when the harshest things of life fall on us, we can count on the love of God. Romans 8:35 to 39 says, "Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, "For your sake we are being put to death all day long; we were considered as sheep to be slaughtered." But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." I tell ya God is loyal to us; let's be loyal to Him!

1 John 4 and verse 16 says, "So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him." Does the love of God abide in you? We must not only know God exists but also know how much He loves us. And no matter how educated you are, your education is incomplete if you have no knowledge of God or of His love for you.

Mark 12:28 to 31 says: And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he (Jesus) answered them well, asked him, 'Which commandment is the most important of all? Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Loving God and loving our neighbor is the answer to so many problems in this world.

God desires that we love Him, and He teaches us how to love Him. We all have to learn how to love our parents, love our spouses, and love our children. You see love is a verb, and we must learn how to love others. To love anyone you must know them well enough to know how to please them. You do this by listening to them. To love the Lord Jesus, we must listen to Him. And He'll tell us how to show our love for Him. The Lord Jesus said in John 14:15, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." Now that's easy to understand. Some people falsely call careful obedience legalism, but Jesus calls it love.

Obedying the Lord is how we show our love. 1 John 2:3 to 6 says: And by this we know that we have come to know him, (that is have that relationship with Him) if we keep his commandments. Whoever says "I know him", I got this love for God, but doesn't keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. And by this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked." Now don't tell the Lord you love Him and then live like a pagan or do your own thing. You're just fooling yourself, and God knows when He is and is not loved.

The Lord Jesus said in John 13:34 to 45, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." Disciples not only love God; they love brothers and sisters in Christ. 1 John 4:7 to 11 the bible says, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love. (and) By this the love of God was manifested in us that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we have loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (that is the atoning sacrifice) Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

I tell you if everyone loved today the way that Jesus loves us, we wouldn't have war, we wouldn't have crime, and we wouldn't have the violence all around us. You know some point to wars started by Christians. But I tell ya the lips of Jesus never started a war. When others have started wars against the people of God, the Lord Jesus protects His people. The Lord Jesus taught in Matthew 5:43 to 48, "You have heard that it was said, 'you shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' (Jesus said) But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Colossians 3:14 to 15 says this to Christians, "And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful." The love of Christ is love designed to make peace inside our hearts and with others all around us. Romans 12:17 to 21 says, "Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, 'if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

You see when I love others, it's like showing my love for Jesus Himself! The Lord Jesus reminds us that when we feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, and visit the sick and the prisoner, we are serving Him (Matthew 25 verses 34 to 40). Christians love their brothers and sisters in Christ and even love their enemies. God doesn't want anyone to perish in sin, and you know what, neither do we. And that's why we bring this broadcast to you week after week. Now even speaking against sin is an act of love and kindness. We don't do it out of meanness. And when we speak of repenting and obeying the Lord, we're asking because we love you and want you to love the Lord Jesus too. And to live to please Him.

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're thankful for the love that You have given to us. And help us to be loving people towards others, even our enemies. Father we're thankful that You teach us the right ways to live and help us to do Your will always. In Jesus name, Amen.

If God so loved you, how are you showing your love for God. Now if God were examining your life would He look down at you and say, now there's somebody who really loves me. Somebody who really cares about the things that I care about and takes me seriously. You see keeping the commandments of Christ is how we show our love for Him. The Lord Jesus said in John 14:15 that, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." Folks that's not hard to understand. Later on He explains in verses 23 and 4 that, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me." Now if you want to be close to God, if you really want and care about Him and live eternally with God, be that close, then love Him enough to keep His commandments. If you keep His commandments, He will make His home with you.

The love and blessing of God does have conditions. God loves those who love Him and keep His commandments in a way that is beyond His love for all others. Those who obey His will have reconciled to God and will live with God forever. Have you obeyed His will?

To become a Christian, hear the word of God, believe in Jesus and His word, repent of your sins, confess Jesus Christ is Lord and the Son of God, and be baptized into Christ Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2 and verse 38). You see the baptism that puts people into Christ is an immersion in water. In baptism we are crucified with Christ, we're buried with Christ, and raised up with Christ to walk in newness of life and free from sin (Romans 6 verses 3 to 7). Now perhaps you were once faithful to Christ but have drifted away from Him. And you've drifted away from the church. Repent and return to the Lord Jesus. Confess your sins, and the Lord will forgive. Please obey the Lord today!

We hope that today's study about having the love of Christ has helped you to see that He is your greatest friend. If you live in the United States and want a free printed copy, send your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to [searchtv@searchtv.org](mailto:searchtv@searchtv.org). Or, you can call the Search office toll-free at 1-800-321-8633. Now there's a schedule of our programs and a map of churches in your area at [www.searchtv.org](http://www.searchtv.org). And you can watch SEARCH on YouTube! Subscribe to our channel, "SearchTVMinistry" and like the programs you watch. We also offer free Bible Correspondence courses. Now don't worry, we're not asking for money. We're here to help you draw close to God.

We do ask that you show God your love by worshiping at church. You need a church family. And if you can attend, don't neglect worshiping at church. There's probably a church of Christ near you. If you're looking for a healthy, Biblical church home, we'll gladly help you find one. Well we'll be back next week, Lord willing. So we ask that you keep searching God's Word with us and tell a friend about this program. And as always we say to you, God bless you and we love you from all of us at In Search of the Lord's Way.