

## THE REAL GOD DISCIPLESHIP CAMPAIGN

### WEEK FIVE: THE LOVE OF GOD

**God's love is centered on "with" not "do".**

Who does God love more?

What if God used the "what you've done filter" ?

If God uses the filter of "what you do" then the older you are the less God loves you.

**We were all dead in our sin. So God removed sin to demonstrate His love.**

*Romans 5:8*

*<sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

*John 3:16*

*<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

**A True Understanding of God's Love Changes:**

- 1. How we think of people we encounter.**
- 2. How we think of our close family and friends.**
- 3. How we think about ourselves.**

**Introduction: We know God loves us but what does that really mean? Surely God's love is dependent on our actions. Surely God loves me more when I obey Him and less when I disobey Him. Just how conditional is God's unconditional love?**

**The importance of our study:**

*"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."*

**- A.W. Tozer, The Knowledge of the Holy**

**A Working Definition of the Love of God**

It is unconditional overwhelming affection for His creation, not based on feelings or emotions.

He doesn't love us because we're lovable or because we make Him feel good; He loves us because He is love.

He created us to have a loving relationship with Him, and He sacrificed His own Son (who also willingly died for us) to restore that relationship.

# What Influences Our Perception of God's Love For Us

## 1. How we feel about ourselves.

What if God doesn't take his cues about his feelings for you from you?

## 2. How others feel about us.

What my parents, my spouse, my employer feels about me does not affect God.

## 3. Culture in general.

Culture tells us love is conditional on my behavior. So our natural question is "Am I loveable?"

**All of these ways of viewing God's love circle around the word DO.**

## So What Does God Think About You

**God Loves You!**

BUT you don't know my behavior and my character. (The Filter)

**Truth:**

**He couldn't Love you more.**

**God couldn't love you less**

**Luke 15** <sup>17</sup> "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup> I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' <sup>20</sup> So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

<sup>21</sup> "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

<sup>22</sup> "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup> 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

<sup>28</sup> "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

<sup>31</sup> "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"