

Bay City Wesleyan Church
February 17, 2019

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Sunday Morning 02-17-2019

We need a love powerful enough to change us.
<http://bible.com/events/567496>
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The world we live in is broken. The old song had it right. "What the world needs now is love..." But we don't need a watered-down love that leaves us holding hands and singing around a campfire. We don't need a warm-fuzzy-feelings kind of love that celebrates our brokenness. We need a love powerful enough to change us. We need the love that Jesus planted in his followers 2000 years ago. We need LOVE RAISED TO THE SECOND POWER.

Mark 12:28-34 NIV

28</small> One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" 29</small> "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30</small> Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31</small> The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." 32</small> "Well said, teacher," the man replied. "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. 33</small> To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." 34</small> When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.
<https://bible.com/bible/111/mrk.12.28-34.NIV>

Sermon in a Sentence:

Jesus deserves our all-out love and loyalty.

In case you think I must be talking to someone else, here are a few questions to analyze the temperature of your love for Jesus.

How often do you spend time in Spirit-guided adoration focused on Jesus in public and in private?

How often have you given into temptation? In what area of your life are you falling short of complete obedience?

What mighty acts has Jesus done in your life? How often do you review them and thank Jesus for his amazing grace?

How often do you spend time praying and reading the Bible simply for the joy of being with Jesus?

How often do you come clean with Jesus? How often do you tell him your deepest feelings?

Love for Jesus is not a religious feeling we work up, an occasional passing affection. Deep, deep love for Jesus becomes inexpressibly emotional because it is the living reality of our whole being. We rejoice in Him, rest in Him, commune ... with Him, lift up our eyes and smile in His face - but we may be moved to tears as we catch the love-light in His beautiful eyes as He beams back His Calvary-love smile to us.

Citation: Ablaze for God, Wesley L. Duewel, © 1989, Zondervan Publishing House

Is there something deep inside you that's saying, "I want that kind of love for Jesus"?