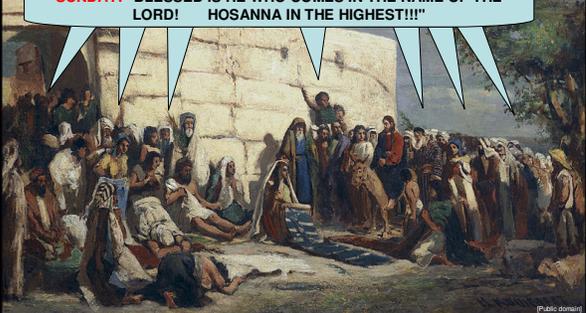


Assurance of Salvation
 Part 29
 Love for God
 (#10)

Motives have *always* been an issue in following Jesus

SUNDAY: "BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD! HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!!!"



Friday: He's NOT going to conquer the Romans?? CRUCIFY HIM!!!

Motives have *always* been an issue in following Jesus



Motives have *always* been an issue in following Jesus

- **The crowd:** "We want to follow you!"
- **Jesus to the crowd:** "All you're interested in is getting more free food from me!"
- **The crowd:** "No more food? We're leaving!"

(See John 6)



Motives have *always* been an issue in following Jesus

- **Jesus to the apostles:** "Will you also leave?"
- **The apostles:** "No way! You alone have the words of eternal life!"

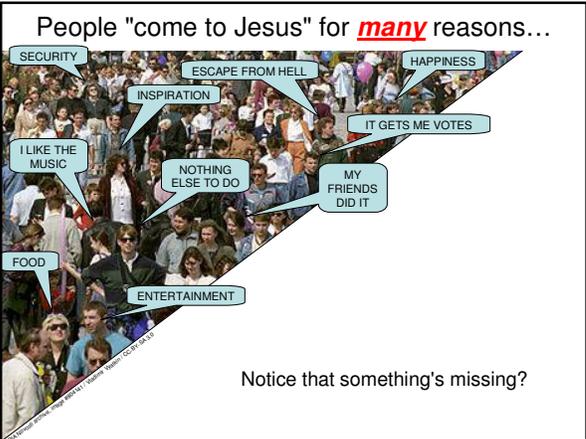
(See John 6)



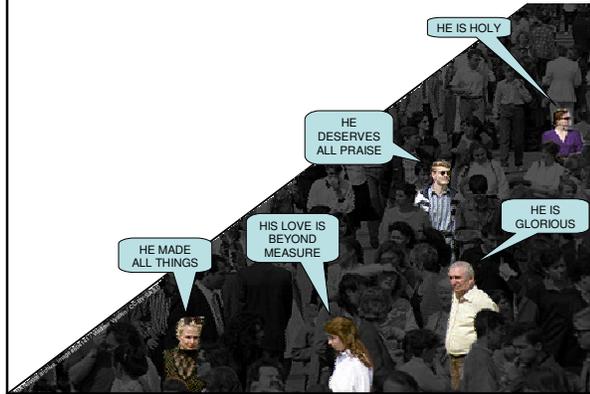
People "come to Jesus" for *many* reasons...

SECURITY, ESCAPE FROM HELL, HAPPINESS, INSPIRATION, IT GETS ME VOTES, I LIKE THE MUSIC, NOTHING ELSE TO DO, MY FRIENDS DID IT, FOOD, ENTERTAINMENT

Notice that something's missing?



Few come simply because Jesus is worthy.



"Love for God"

Evidence of salvation

"You must love the Lord your God
 – with all your heart,
 – with all your soul,
 – with all your mind,
 – and with all your strength."
 - Jesus (Mark 12:30)

In other words:
 You must love
 God with all your
 "everything."

#3

Today, the third aspect of
 GENUINE love for God:

#3

Gratitude
 for what God has done for us.

This third
 aspect of love
 can be easily
 distorted.



It's supposed to
 symbolize love.

I sure don't
 recognize it!

Navid Daman (CC BY-SA 3.0)

WHAT makes it a **genuine**
 expression of love for God?

It can be **genuine** **ONLY** if associated with
 the first two aspects of love for God.

(REVIEW)

- 1) Delight in who God is and what he does.
- 2) A desire for God to be glorified in all things.

★ It's all about **FOCUS!** ★

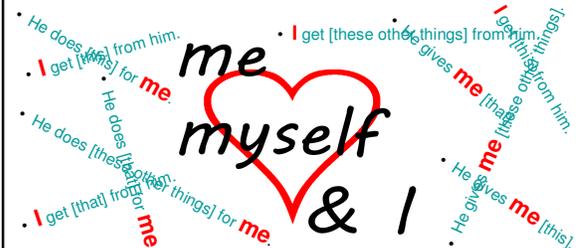
If you *claim* to love God,
what focus do you have?

- **A focus on self** ("what I get")?
 – This is SELF-LOVE.
- **A focus on God** ("who he is")?
 – FIRST: "His worth, his glory, etc."
 – THEN: "What he has done for me."

SELF-centered

I Love God because...

- I get [all sorts of things] from him.
- He does [all sorts of things] for me.



The FALSE GOSPEL often has this focus!

- **OFTEN:** "You should love God because of all the things you can get from him..."
- **NEVER:** "You should love God simply because he is worthy of love."

THE BIG ISSUE:
**** IF GOD DIDN'T GIVE YOU ANYTHING,
 WOULD YOU STILL LOVE HIM? ****

(The background picture is, quite appropriately, FUNGUS.)

GOD-centered I Love God because...

- He is God and is **worthy of love.**
[= Love for God, Aspect #1, "Who he is."]
- He would be **worthy of love** even if I got **nothing** from him.
[= Love for God, Aspect #2, "God's glory" and "Your will be done."]
 – He would be worthy of love, even if he sent me to hell because of my sins.

GOD-centered I Love God *even more* because...

- He has given me the opportunity (and power) to escape the darkness of my sin and to live for him.
[= Love for God, Aspect #3, "What you have done for me."]

I don't understand why you would care so much... BUT YOU DO!

GENUINE Love for God remains even when trials come

– even when you aren't "getting something" from God.

In this [salvation] you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

(1 Peter 1:6-9 NIV)

Remember ASAPH from last week? (Psalm 73)

He had this type of love

Yet I am always with you;
 you hold me by my right hand.
 You guide me with your counsel,
 and afterward you will take me into glory.
 Whom have I in heaven but you?
 And earth has nothing I desire besides you.
 My flesh and my heart may fail,
 but God is the strength of my heart
 and my portion forever.

(Psalm 73:23-26 NIV)

The KEY issue:



- The FOUNDATION on which this love is built:



I LOVE ME!



I LOVE GOD!

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YOUR MISSION:
Self Evaluation & Application
Do you love God?

ASPECT #1

- Do you love God for EVERYTHING he is, or do you emphasize certain aspects of God and ignore the rest?
- Are you convinced that EVERYTHING about God is excellent and praiseworthy?

YOUR MISSION:
Self Evaluation & Application
Do you love God?

ASPECT #2

- Do you love God when his will goes *against* yours? Or when he doesn't seem to "meet your needs"?
- Do you love God when doing so does not "pay off"?

YOUR MISSION:
Self Evaluation & Application
Do you love God?

ASPECT #3 (If "YES" to Aspects 1 & 2)

- Do you love God because of what he has done for you?
- Are you willing to love God even if he seems to "fail" you, and the only things you have to rely on are his promises?

YOUR MISSION:
Self Evaluation & Application
Do you love God?

- **IF YOUR ANSWER TO THESE IS "YES"**
 - You have a legitimate reason for having assurance of salvation.
- **IF NOT...**
 - It doesn't necessarily PROVE you are unsaved. It all depends on HOW you respond at this point. (Your response will either show *growth* or *deadness*.)

Credits (1)

SCRIPTURE

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Credits (2)

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