

Deepening our Relationship with God

Day 7

“ . . . they have kept your word” John 17:6 (ESV)

Key Thought: God has given us Words that we are to KEEP!

Do you know what your love language is? A love language is the means by which we feel valuable, cherished, and appreciated in relationship. According to Gary Chapman, author of the book “The 5 Love Languages”, most people have one or a combination of 5 different love languages including words of affirmation, quality time, physical touch, receiving a gift, and acts of service. The giving and receiving of these love languages is essential in any healthy relationship.

God has a unique love language . . . Do you know what it is? Obedience. In our relationship with God, He receives love when we do what He commands. At the top of God’s list of how He receives love in return from us is our willingness to obey what He wants us to think, say, and do.

In John 17:6 in talking about His disciples to His Father Jesus said, “they have kept your word.” The word “keep” means to “observe”, to “conform”, or to “put into practice.” As a result of God manifesting Himself to us through Jesus Christ, and therefore making His Word(s) known to us, we are to respond by observing, conforming, and putting all that we know about God and His standards of right and wrong into practice.

It should come as no surprise that Jesus Christ, the incarnate God-man was perfectly obedient to God the Father. According to John 5:19, 30 and 8:28 Jesus did “nothing” independent of God. Jesus said in John 8:29 that He “always” did things that were “pleasing” to God. Again, in John 14:31 Jesus said, “I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.” Jesus Christ loved His Father and He lived a life of perfect obedience. Jesus was a perfect example for us of what it looks like to love God through obedience.

Jesus communicated the expectation of loving obedience to His disciples in John 14:15 saying, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” Later, in John 14:23-24 Jesus said, “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.” Our obedience

to God's Word is what invites His presence close to us. Our obedience to God's Word is what allows us to dwell with Him in close intimate relationship. Whereas our disobedience distances and separates us from God.

1 John 2:3–6 says, "And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says "I know him" but does not 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. 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." Ultimately, loving obedience is living life in the same way that Jesus Christ lived His life.

There is not doubt that God loves us. God is love and He showed us He loved us by sending his Son to be the propitiation for our sins (1 John 5:10). He showed He loved us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). The question is not whether God loves you. The question is do you love God? And you express your love for God not just in your thoughts but with your loving obedience!

Questions to Ponder

1. Do you know what your love language is?
How do you feel when your love language is not met?
How do you feel when your love language is met?
2. Do you know and believe that God loves you?
How do you show your love for God in return?
3. What are some commands that you are aware of the God has made known to you through His Word (e.g. Matthew 28:19-20)? Are you being obedient to these commands?

Possible Prayer Points

1. Pray and ask God to help you keep His commands.
2. Pray and ask God to help you express your love for Him through obedience.

How do you think you should relate with God as a result of Him trying to relate to you in this way?