

Loving Christ:

***The Essence of our Relationship
with God***

Series: Simple Church:

Connecting People to God

1 John 4:7-21

Our goal is...

⌘...the same...to get everyone on the same page when it comes to *simple church.*

Simple Church...

⌘...is a *process...* a process that enables us to move through four basic steps as we move toward spiritual maturity.

Our Simple 4-Step Process

Step 4

Connect to the Lost

Step 3

Connect to Ministry

Step 2

Connect to Others

Step 1

Connect to God

Our Simple Process for Connecting to God

Obeying Christ

(John 14:18-26)

Loving Christ

(1 John 4:7-18)

Trusting Christ

(1 John 5:9-15)

Knowing Christ

(Matthew 16:12-20)

Thesis

⌘ We are not saved by loving Christ. We are saved by trusting Christ. After we have trusted Christ, we respond to Him in love.

The Implications

⌘ There is no greater indicator of who we are as believers than our love for Christ and our love for others.

John 21:15-17...

⌘...gives the account of a most remarkable conversation between Jesus and Peter.

Three Points

⌘ **First, Jesus reminded Peter of the folly of self-confidence.**

Purpose of John 21:15ff

⌘ Second, Jesus wanted Peter to know that humility was essential for a committed follower of Christ.

Purpose of John 21:15ff

⌘ Third, Jesus reminded Peter that our love for Christ is not measured by the confessions of our lips, but by the conduct of our lives.

Love for Christ

⌘...is more than a
confession on your
lips...it is the conduct
of your lives.

John 14:20-23

⌘ "At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. He who **has My commandments and keeps them**, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.... **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. He who does not love Me does not keep My words...."

Love for Christ

⌘...flows out of a clear understanding of who God is. (1 John 4:7-8)

Who God Is

⌘ God is spirit (John 4:24)

⌘ God is light (1 John 1:5)

⌘ God is love (1 John 4:7-8)

Love for Christ

⌘...is motivated by a full appreciation for what God has done. (1 John 4:9-11)

Before God sent...

**⌘...His Son, we did not
have a concept of love.
We came to know love
through the sacrifice of
His Son.**

Key Point

⌘ We are not saved by loving Christ. We are saved by trusting Christ. After we have trusted Christ, we respond to Him in love.

Love for Christ

**⌘...is a manifestation
of what God is still
doing. (1 John 4:12-
18)**

If we love one...

⌘...another, then we know that we are born of God and know God, because love is from God.

If a person does not...

**⌘...then that person
does not know God**

**⌘The child resembles
the parent.**