

DISCUSSION GUIDE

LOVING GOD

Mark — Week 36

ICEBREAKER: If you could change one thing about your appearance, what would it be?

OVERVIEW: Our mission at Church Acadiana is to help people far from God become fully-devoted followers of Jesus Christ. But what is full devotion? What is spiritual maturity? Just as you can't hit a target that you can't see, we can't grow to maturity if we don't know what it means? In Mark 12:28-31 Jesus tells us the answer: Loving God. In this discussion we will go deeper with how to apply the greatest commandment to our lives.

1. Read Mark 12:28-31. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Read 1 John 2:15-17.
 - What does it mean to not love the world or the things of this world?
 - Why does loving the world mean that you don't love God?
 - How are you tempted to love the world?
 - What can you do to avoid falling in love with the world?
3. Read 1 John 4:19.
 - What does this verse mean?
 - How can this verse help us to grow in our love for God?

4. Read Galatians 5:22-23.
 - What does it mean that love is the fruit of the Spirit?
 - How can this verse help us to grow in our love for God?
5. Why are knowledge, belief, and good deeds inadequate definitions of spiritual maturity?
6. The sermon listed six things that loving God means. Which one do you need to grow in the most? Explain.
 - Loving God is the Christian's priority.
 - Loving God is the Christian's obsession.
 - Loving God is relational.
 - Loving God involves our affection.
 - Loving God requires obedience.
 - Loving God means loving your neighbor as yourself.
7. God wants us to love Him with all of our heart; not just with our external actions, but with our inner-self — our thoughts and attitudes. How can you grow to love God better with your thoughts and attitudes?
8. God wants us to love Him with all of our soul — with every arena of our lives. Is there an arena of life that you struggle to completely surrender to God? Explain. What can you do to grow?

The Last Word: We don't merely love God more than anything else. And we don't merely put God first. Loving God is everything. It is all. It is our obsession.