

# LOVING GOD:

The Attitude of a God Lover

# LOVING GOD:

- Putting off change (marriage; God)
- Too often we keep on living, and we wake up one day and tragically realize that we have missed out on the life we always wanted.

# LOVING GOD:

- Matthew 22:37-40, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

# LOVING GOD:

- What does it mean to love God like this? David was one of the pre-eminent God lovers in the Scripture. I want to look at some of his writings to examine the heart or attitude of a God lover.

# LOVING GOD:

- **First, the heart of a God lover is characterized by brokenness.**

Brokenness is a state of the heart. It is a soft, & contrite heart before God. It is the single most important quality of a God lover. Psalm 51 was written after David's biggest moral failings.

# LOVING GOD:

- **First, the heart of a God lover is characterized by brokenness.**
- Psalm 51:1-3, “Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.” (owns it)

# LOVING GOD:

- **First, the heart of a God lover is characterized by brokenness.**
- Psalm 51:10-11, “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.”

# LOVING GOD:

- **First, the heart of a God lover is characterized by brokenness.**
- Psalm 51:16-17, “You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.”

# LOVING GOD:

- **First, the heart of a God lover is characterized by brokenness.**
- What God wants is unobstructed access to a person's heart. Brokenness tears down all obstructions, all barriers, and gives God full access. God wants you.

# LOVING GOD:

- **First, the heart of a God lover is characterized by brokenness.**
- Is there any obstruction in your heart right now that keeps you from being a God lover? (hurt; sin) (brokenness in relationships)

# LOVING GOD:

- **First, the heart of a God lover is characterized by brokenness.**
- Brokenness is humility before God – it isn't just about sin. When my heart is broken, even when I am not sinning, my heart is soft before God. I must recognize when my heart hardens, & cultivate a soft heart. (worship; thanks; surrender)

# LOVING GOD:

- **Second, the heart of a God lover is characterized by pursuit.** Psalm 63:1, “You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.”
- When we love God, we pursue the relationship. David was a passionate pursuer.

# LOVING GOD:

- **Second, the heart of a God lover is characterized by pursuit.**
- David intentionally throws logs on the fire of his red hot passion for God. E.g., Psalm 63:2, “I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory.”

# LOVING GOD:

- **Second, the heart of a God lover is characterized by pursuit.**
- David intentionally throws logs on the fire of his red hot passion for God. E.g., Psalm 63:6, “On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night.”

# LOVING GOD:

- **Second, the heart of a God lover is characterized by pursuit.**
- We pursue God because He pursued us. (incarnation; cross; Holy Spirit deposit)  
Lovers pursue one another or their love dies down. (dating; marriage) We get so busy living, we forget to construct the life we always wanted. To rekindle the flame, ramp up pursuit.

# LOVING GOD:

- **Second, the heart of a God lover is characterized by pursuit.**
- We must pursue God too, to rekindle the flame. We must throw another log on the fire. Sometimes we have to change the rules of engagement – our approach (remember; watch; worship; silence; book)

# LOVING GOD:

- **Third, the heart of a God lover is characterized by rest.** Psalm 62:1, “Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him.” v.5, “Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him.”
- Resting is a spiritual posture of stillness, solitude, silence & deep trust. Resting is essential to feeding the fire of our love.

# LOVING GOD:

- **Third, the heart of a God lover is characterized by rest.**
- When I am alone with God, he reveals to me those obstructions in my heart. We cannot live an examined life without stillness. (baggage on a journey – never hit our destination)

# LOVING GOD:

- **Third, the heart of a God lover is characterized by rest.**
- Alone with God, I give up the illusion of control. I am able to let go. I can rest in God's ultimate plans. I realize that the to do list will never be done, but God is enough, & with him I have peace.

# LOVING GOD:

- A moment of reflection: Is your current path trending toward the life you always wanted? Will you be a passionate lover of God? Is it time for a change so that so that you don't just keep on living, and miss out on the life you always wanted?