

Pastor's Corner

What Does Love Look Like?

February 11, 2009

Dear Friend,

Ever wonder what love looks like? We see different pictures of love in the media: a puppy with a bright red ribbon around his neck, or a father holding his newborn baby, or a man giving a smiling lady a big diamond in a commercial. These are some of the many different faces of love the media paints for us, but it's still not what love *really* looks like.

Here's a picture of what loves *doesn't* look like. Imagine a very attractive woman walking along, with soft flowing hair and a beautiful smile on her face. She's in the prime of health and life. She's singing of her love for God, and everything about her exudes her love for her Creator. She radiates love. In fact, with everyone she comes in contact with she always talks about God, and everyone loves to be in her presence just to feel the love coming from her. Now, as she walks toward you, in her hand she's holding a small little fruit that she is eating. And that fruit is from a tree that God said, "Don't eat this fruit, don't even touch it." Now the question: Does she love God? She *says* she does, but there's that fruit in her hand. Let's let the Bible answer this one for us:



O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant of love with all who love Him and obey His commands. . .
Daniel 9:4

If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love.
John 15:10

Jesus replied, "If anyone loves Me, he will obey My teaching. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey My teaching. These words you hear are not My own; they belong to the Father who sent Me."
John 14:24, 25

If ye love Me, keep My commandments.
John 14:25

This is love for God: to obey His commandments. And His commands are not burdensome.
1 John 5:3

We know that we have come to know Him if we obey His commandments. The man who says, "I know Him," but does not do what He commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys His word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in Him.
1 John 2:3-5

Even though we have many different pictures of what love looks like, the Bible tells us that love is seen by one thing: obedience. It's not a nice, fuzzy feeling, though love does feel that way at times. It's not about cute little animals and babies, though they make us feel loved. But, simply put, love is seen in obedience. If a child says they love their parents, but do not obey them, we would have to question their love. And if a husband says he loves his wife, and does not respect her wishes, but does his own thing, we would question his love. And if we say we love God, and we don't obey Him, the Bible stands as our judge and gives its verdict: We are liars and don't truly love God.

Most of the tests of our love for God are in the little areas, like it was for Eve, back in the beginning. Just eating a little piece of fruit, not a big deal! But to God it made all the difference, because it's in the little things where true love and obedience are seen.

Do you love Him? Or, we could ask that question in a different way: Are you obedient to Him?

Have a great day! We're praying for you!

Mark