

## **Keeping First Things First Deuteronomy 6:4-7 (NKJV)**

4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! 5 "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. 6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

It seems kind of strange that God would command love from His people.

As one writer said, I don't suppose that command has changed many people. You can command obedience but to command love is quite different.

The problem is that the natural man just does not have it in himself to love God. And the reason is that the natural man loves himself more than anything else. Rom 8: 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

So then is there no hope for us. Well not in ourselves but there is in God. For verse 9 of Romans 8 says, "9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His."

- I. People will not love God until they see what God has done for them.
  - A. Until they see where they are, a sinner condemned to eternal punishment.
    - 1. John 3: 3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."
    - 2. 18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.
    - 3. 36 "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."
  - B. Until the Spirit of God convicts them of their sin and shows them Jesus is their Savior.
    - 1. 19 "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 "For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.
  - C. Not until they see that Jesus died on the cross in their place.
    - 1. John 3:14 "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 "that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

- D. Not until they see that Christ was the sacrifice for their sin to free them from sin.
1. John 3:16 (NKJV) 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

II. But is natural for those who have been changed to love God.

- A. Jer 32:38 'They shall be My people, and I will be their God; 39 'then I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me forever, for the good of them and their children after them. 40 'And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from doing them good; but I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me.

- B. Luke 7:36-47

Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat. 37 And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, 38 and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil. 39 Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, "This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner."

40 And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." So he said, "Teacher, say it."

41 "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?"

43 Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more."

And He said to him, "You have rightly judged." 44 Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. 45 You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. 46 You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. 47 Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little." NKJV

1. What were the differences between the woman and the Pharisee?
2. The Pharisee was a religious person and the woman was not.
3. The Pharisee was considered a good person and the woman was not.

4. The Pharisee and the woman were both sinners who needed a Savior.
5. The woman had found Jesus as her Savior while the Pharisee had not.
6. The woman loved Jesus while the Pharisee did not.
7. Many people are like the Pharisee, they are going to make in to heaven on their own, by their good works.
8. The trouble is that none of us are that good.
9. But Jesus offers us forgiveness by virtue of His own shed blood on the cross.
10. We can be forgiven by turning away from our sin and putting our trust in Jesus Christ.