

Love Is Surrender to His Will
John 14:15

If you love Me, keep My commandments.

Back in 1972 we Nancy and I had a couple of missionary students come and spend a week with us and to help with vacation Bible School. Among their belonging they had a recent album by Ralph Carmichael, *Tell It Like It Is*. I listened to that album over the next few weeks and God used that album to redirect my life. One of the songs on that album was *Love is Surrender*, which I have put on the back of the insert for you today. To me those words were simple and yet profound.

John MacArthur says in his commentary, "Obedience is a hallmark of genuine saving faith and love for God. Those who are truly saved, by grace alone, will invariably respond with a life of submission and service." - MacArthur New Testament Commentary – John 12-21.

We began this series on loving God back in Deuteronomy and I want you to notice how in Deuteronomy that:

- I. Love for God is connected with keeping His commands.
 - A. Deuteronomy 7:9 (NKJV) 9 Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;
 - B. Deuteronomy 10:12 (NKJV) 12 "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,
 - C. Deuteronomy 11:1 (NKJV) 1 "Therefore you shall love the LORD your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always.
 - D. Deuteronomy 11:13 (NKJV) 13 'And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul,
 - E. Deuteronomy 11:22 (NKJV) 22 "For if you carefully keep all these commandments which I command you to do--to love the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him--
 - F. Deuteronomy 13:3 (NKJV) 3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.
 - G. Deuteronomy 19:9 (NKJV) 9 and if you keep all these commandments and do them, which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and to walk always in His ways, then you shall add three more cities for yourself besides these three,

- H. Deuteronomy 30:6 (NKJV) 6 And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.
 - I. Deuteronomy 30:16 (NKJV) 16 in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess.
 - J. Deuteronomy 30:20 (NKJV) 20 that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."
- II. Jesus even connects His own obedience to His love for the Father
- A. John 14:31 (NKJV) 31 But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here.
- III. So we should not be surprised when Jesus continually connects the ideas of love and obedience.
- A. John 14:21-24 (NKJV) 21 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." 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?" 23 Jesus answered and said 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. 24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.
 - B. John 15:10-14 (NKJV) 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.
- IV. The apostle John who records these words of Jesus reinforces these things in his epistles.
- A. 1 John 2:3-5 (NKJV) 3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.
 - B. 1 John 5:2-3 (NKJV) 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we

keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

This is the only proper evidence of love to Jesus, for mere profession is no proof of love; but that love for him which leads us to do all his will, to love each other, to deny ourselves, to take up our cross, and to follow him through evil report and through good report, is true attachment.

Barnes' Notes on the New Testament.

This connection seems designed to teach that the proper temple for the indwelling Spirit of Jesus is a heart filled with that love to Him which lives actively for Him, and so this was the fitting preparation for the promised gift. JFB

A Commentary: Critical, Experimental, and Practical on the Old and New Testaments.