

## “I Love You Lord, But . . .”

### SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 14:25-33

#### INTRODUCTION.

- A. Use illustration of Bob saying to different women, “I love you but, . . .”
- B. In a similar fashion, many people will say they love the Lord, but will be unwilling to give up all in order to follow the Lord.
- C. The question for you and I is this: If we are going to say we love the Lord, are we going to “put our money where our mouth is” and put action behind our words?
- D. With this lesson, we will consider three areas where many people refuse to change while still professing to love the Lord.

#### I. “DON'T WANT TO GIVE UP MY VICES.”

- A. Some people believe they can love the Lord and engage in various sinful activities. They believe the grace of God will continuously cleanse them. Consider the truth. (Romans 5:20 – 6:4)
- B. Some people believe you can walk in darkness, in sinful deeds, and still be in fellowship with God. Consider the truth. (1 John 1:5-10)
- C. Some people believe that putting sin out of their life is not important, as long as you love the Lord. Consider the truth. (Colossians 3:1-11)
- D. Can one truly love the Lord and not give up his vices, his sins? The answer is: No!
  - 1. *“If you love Me, keep My commandments.”* (John 14:15)
  - 2. *“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”* (Mark 12:30)

#### II. “I DON'T WANT TO GIVE UP MY RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.”

- A. Some have the idea that doctrine does not matter as long as one loves the Lord. Consider the truth. (Matthew 15:7-9)
- B. Some believe the pattern of doctrine is not important. Consider the truth.
  - 1. Paul commended Titus for showing “integrity, reverence, incorruptibility” in doctrine. (Titus 2:7)

2. The person who does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. (2 John 1:9-10)
- C. Can one truly love the Lord and not follow the doctrine and teachings taught by Jesus and His apostles? The answer is: No!
1. *"If you love Me, keep My commandments."* (John 14:15)
  2. *"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."* (Mark 12:30)

### III. "I DON'T WANT TO GIVE UP MY OWN SELFISH DESIRES."

- A. Some have the idea that a person can love the Lord and still pursue their own selfish desires. "The Lord loves me and wants me to be happy." Consider the truth:
1. Jesus commanded those who follow Him to take up their cross and follow him. (Matthew 10:37-39; Luke 14:26-27, 33)
  2. The story of the rich man. (Matthew 19:16-22)
- B. Can one truly love the Lord and not give up his own selfish desires and pursuits? The answer is: No!
1. *"If you love Me, keep My commandments."* (John 14:15)
  2. *"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."* (Mark 12:30)

### CONCLUSION.

- A. There are many, many people who claim to love the Lord, both within denominations and within the Lord's body. However, the actions and attitudes of many say they do not love the Lord. Remember the brethren in Ephesus, to whom Jesus said, *"Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love."* (Revelation 2:4)
- B. If a person truly loves the Lord, then that person will desire to make any and all changes necessary to please the Lord. One who loves the Lord will . . .
1. . . **strive to abandon all sinful practices.** The more the new convert learns as a Christian, the more he should change his life. "If the Bible says the practice is wrong, I will drop the practice."
  2. . . **strive to abandon all former religious beliefs and practices which are**

**contrary to the doctrine and teachings of Jesus Christ.** A person who is converted to the truth from some former religious teachings and practices must be willing to walk away from those former teachings and believe only that which is taught in the Bible.

3. . . . **strive to abandon all selfish desires and pursuits in choosing to serve only the Lord.** A person who is converted to the truth must devote his whole self to serving the Lord. In so doing, in any future decisions, he will consider God's word first and make choices which do not conflict with the word of the Lord.

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