

October 3/4, 2009
How God Feels Loved

When you really, really love someone you want to love them in the way they feel loved, not just in the way that works for you to love them. What's true of human relationships is also true of our relationship with God.

How then does God tell us that He feels loved? How does God tell us in His Word to love Him back?

God feels loved when ...

1) We believe in Him and receive all the incredible gifts He gave in both His Son and Holy Spirit.

John 3:16-17; John 1:11-13; Romans 8:15; Eph. 1:3; Luke 11:13; John 7:37-39; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:11; Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

You love God by receiving in faith every gift He wants to give you and using it for the purpose He gave it. What gifts do you need to receive and use that would make God feel loved by you?

2) We worship Him the way He wants to be worshiped. God loves wholehearted and whole body worship, but also delights when we get practical with our worship.

Deut. 6:5-7; Matthew 15:8-9; John 4:24; Eph. 5:18-20; Colossians 3:16; Psalm 95:6; 1 Timothy 2:8; Psalm 134:2; Isaiah 58:6,7; James 1:27

The best pattern for worship on earth is the pattern for worship in heaven, not your previous church experience or what is personally comfortable for you.

Revelation 5:11-14

What does God want you to change about how you worship Him?

3) We lovingly obey Him and His Word and look expectantly for the blessing that follows.

John 14:15,21; 1 John 5:3; Luke 11:27-28; Matthew 7:24-27

Our obedience brings a smile to God's face and incredible blessing to our lives and others. You are loving God, yourself, and others every time you obey God and His commands. What commands do you need to obey that would make God feel loved by you?

4) We submit in faith to His divine direction regardless of the cost or inconvenience to us.

Hebrews 11:6-8; 17-19; Matthew 10:37-38

Faith-filled submission boldly declares we love and trust God and are confident He knows best even when it doesn't make sense to us. What is God directing you to do that takes faith and love for Him to submit to?

Does God feel loved by you? He can if you...

1) Believe and receive all the gifts He has for you and use them for His purposes.

2) Worship Him the way He wants to be worshiped.

3) Lovingly obey Him and His commands expecting blessing to follow.

4) Submit in faith to His direction regardless of the cost or inconvenience.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you feel loved? What ways do you love to love others the most?

2. Review the four ways God feels loved. Which way is easiest for you to love Him? What way is most challenging?

3. What one or two ways will you love God back this week? Share this with one another and pray for each other.