

# The Marks of a Mature Disciple – Part 1

## Loving God

Matthew 22:34 – 40

### I. Introduction

### II. Mature Disciples of Jesus Are Characterized by a Whole-Hearted Love for God

#### A. The necessity of loving God

**1 Corinthians 2:9** But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him...”

**James 1:12** Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

**John 14:15** “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

**1 Timothy 1:5** The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

*“Thus our good works are not truly good unless they are motivated by a love for God and a desire to glorify him.” - Jerry Bridges*

#### B. The key to loving God

**1 John 4:19** We love because he first loved us.

**Luke 7:47** “...he who is forgiven little, loves little.”

**1 John 3:16** “By this we know love that he laid down his life for us...”

**1 John 4:9 – 10** In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

**Romans 5:8** ...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**Romans 12:1** I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

## **We Exist to Make and Mature Disciples of Jesus, who, Fueled by the Gospel, Love God**

**Revelation 2:2 – 5** “I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name’s sake, and you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.”

### **III. Conclusion**