

Changing the Way You Think

“Do You Love Me?”

A Summary of Layers

(1) **“Let God Transform You into a New Person by Changing the Way You Think”** (Rom. 12:2)

(2) **“Having Ears to Hear What the Spirit is Saying to the Church”** (Rev. 2:7)

1. Examine the Genuineness of Our Love for Christ

2. Consider the Influence and Pressures of Cultural Values and Morals of this World and How They May Have Blinded Us from Truth
3. Search Our Hearts and See if We Have Made a Place for Sin & Self to Thrive
4. Take Inventory of Our Commitment to Following Jesus, Carrying Our Cross Behind Him

- **“If you love Me you will obey My commandments”** (John 14:15)

- **Respecting and Adhering to the Authority of Scripture**

- Counterfeits of Truth
 - Personal Preference
 - Cultural Morals and Values
 - Religious Tradition

John 21:15-17

Jesus said to Simon Peter, **“Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”** “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, **“Feed my lambs.”** ¹⁶ Again Jesus said, **“Simon son of John, do you love me?”** He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, **“Take care of my sheep.”** ¹⁷ The third time he said to him, **“Simon son of John, do you love me?”** Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, **“Do you love me?”** He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, **“Feed my sheep.”**

“Do You Love Me?”

A Teachable Heart

- **Our Naivety of What it Means to Love and Follow Jesus**

- *“...More than these?”*

- *Comparing with Others; Performance; Worldly/Fleshly Metrics*

Mark 14:29-31

Peter said to him, **“Even if everyone else deserts you, I never will.”** ³⁰ Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, Peter—this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know me.” ³¹ **“No!” Peter declared emphatically. “Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!”** And all the others vowed the same.

- **Can You Receive Correction?**

- *“I’m going fishing...”* (John 21:3)

Fighting With Yourself, Falling Down and Getting Back Up Again

Romans 7:19, 22-23

I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. But if I do what I don't want to do... I love God's law with all my heart. ²³ But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind...

Romans 8:6, 12-17

Letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace... you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if **through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live...**

You have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. **But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.**

- The Struggle -- Sanctification is a part of the journey of loving and following Jesus instead of Self.
- Not about Fear, Shame, or Guilt – But Training – A loving Father Preparing His Child for Maturity.
- But the Process is Painful – Love Doesn't Give Up.

Proverbs 24:16 The godly may trip seven times, **but they will get up again.** One disaster will overthrow the wicked.

"Feed" and "Take Care of" Jesus' Followers

Hebrews 10:24 Think of ways to **motivate one another to acts of love and good works.**

Gal. 6:10 **Whenever you have opportunity, do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.**

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that a person will **lay down his life for his friends.**

Preparing for the Full Cost of Loving and Following Jesus

John 21:18-19

"I tell you the truth, when you were young, you were able to do as you liked; you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted to go. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will dress you and take you where you don't want to go." Jesus said this to let him know by what kind of death he would glorify God. Then Jesus told him, "Follow me."

- **True to form, Peter still Struggles...**

John 21:21-22

Peter asked Jesus, "What about him, Lord?" Jesus replied, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? As for you, follow me."

- **Jesus repeats, "As for you, follow me."**