

Generous Worship

Generosity = *Eumetadotos* (you-met-a-tod-os) Gk

To willingly share, ready to impart, generous in distributing.

“Once you’ve met a todos you’ll never be the same!”

Mark 12:30-31

“Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy.” (The Message)

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” (NIV)

All, NOT part!

Worship is an expression of our Love

Loving the Lord with all your heart?

1. Recognise that our affections determine our devotion. The arena of the heart contains powerful emotions, affections and desires – unless it’s clinically dead!! Our affections are like deep currents that steer our lives. To understand where our affections lie, we have to discern at what occupies our time and motivates our actions. Affections wait to be captured. They long to cling to something or someone. Wherever these affections are found, so will our hearts be.
2. Affections follow what we treasure. As Jesus said in Matthew 6:21; for where your treasure is, there your heart will also be. The treasure comes first and the heart follows on second. To treasure Jesus supremely will mean we love and worship Him from our hearts.
3. Aim to make Jesus your greatest treasure – Paul counted everything as loss compared to knowing Jesus (Philippians 3:8). A lethargic, passive church can be traced back to misplaced affections, usually starting with subtle drift.
4. Spend some time with Jesus – reading about Him, waiting with Him, speaking out thanks to Him. We have to pursue Him to find Him.

Loving the Lord with all your soul?

Loving God with our inner self, the part that defines who we are. The part of us that makes our decisions and choices, that ultimately decide our lifestyle and priorities. There are ways we can love God with all our soul.

1. Love God by making Godly choices in life. Choices flow out of what we treasure most. These choices demonstrate our love for God
2. Love God by pursuing obedience to His word. Feelings follow obedience!
3. Love the Lord by pursuing a life of humility in attitude and speech. Humility, or meekness is not weakness – in fact it’s strength. Also, what and how we say things is always linked to our love for and of God. Speech is massive!! (Matthew 12:34 Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks)

“When our affections are captured then choices become God-centred and a lifestyle of humility and godliness is born. This is loving God with all your soul.”

Loving the Lord with all our mind

Romans 12:2 shows us how important it is to continue to have our mind renewed and transformed. We can so often believe wrong things about God and ourselves because of life experiences. The mind is a battleground and the enemy knows he can wreak havoc through our minds. As our minds become renewed, the Holy Spirit releases supernatural activity to help us love Jesus more. Our challenge? To make good choices.

Four ways to love the Lord with our minds;

Reason

Whilst revelation through the heart is the ‘leader,’ the mind learns from what the heart has received. This can be difficult when it appears to make no sense logically. Reason is powerful as we can systematically and logically look at how God has loved us and entered our lives and give Him praise and thanksgiving – generous worship!

Knowledge

It’s really important to get to know who God really is through His word and to bring ourselves into ‘agreement’ with who God is and who He says we are and how much He loves us. Loving God is continually refuelled when the mind encounters truth over truth.

Memory

The bible is full of commands/commendations to remember (see Isaiah 63:7). The children of Israel often forgot all His benefits and interceptions and so had to be reminded to remember! If we are struggling, can we think back to a time when, ‘only God?’ Negative memories and sadness can only be overcome by truth.

Imagination

(Ephesians 3:20) God has given us the ability and power to imagine. Dreaming big dreams. Letting heaven fill our minds and loving God and giving Him worship as a result.

Loving the Lord with all our strength

This is where generous love or worship is really commanded by Jesus. It literally means to love Him, exceedingly, lavishly and with reckless abandon out of pure devotion. Remember David dancing before the ark and saying he would become “more undignified than this” after being mocked by Michal his wife. It means we love and worship 110%, we go all out to love and worship with all our might. A difficult choice when we are tired, weary and disappointed. We have a challenge – being ‘real’ or making a choice to go for it. To love God with all our strength is to put all our resources, abilities and our time into doing it. These are manifestations of a sold our life to God.