

Passion

Part 4: Passion for Jesus Things!

So far... Talked about supporting our passions...At the conclusion of "This is Life!" series. We focused on our passion for two gen down ministry! We realize they're under assault/need the help of those who are stabilized! *We love our kids/grandkids...* Changed the way we lived 20 years ago! Doing our best to pave the way!

So far... Talked about fanning the flames of personal passion for God...Knowing that our love can grow cold! Knowing we can be distracted by events of our days! Knowing that we can end up with unhealthy "over-longings..." But that they don't have to be! God, Spirit, Jesus, Paul all had them! Only in danger if we lose sight of Him!

Last week... Having passion for Jesus, kindled by seeing Him as our Rescuer and Hero! Discovered His passion test: "If you love Me... you'll keep My commandments!" Love has words AND actions! "love should be EVIDENT/evidenced!" Sin, distractions, self-love, familiarity can all cool our love! Want to grow old and up together!

Today we're talking about having passion for the things Jesus loves! Jesus loves just three things!

Jesus loves His Father!

Love for the Father... "So that the world may know that I love the Father, as the Father gave Me commandment – even so I do!" **J14.31** Love acts, and Jesus acted on God's will! He asks us only to do what He has done! Do we have a passion for God like Jesus? If we do we will follow His words/will right up to the moment of death! *"If we love Him we keep His words!"* "I don't seek My own will but *the will of the Father who sent Me!*" **J5.30** "I came down from heaven to do the will of My Father..." **J6.38** "He gave himself for our sins, to deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God!" **Gal1.4**
"Not My will but Yours be done..." **Mt26.39, 42**

If we understand Jesus words... obedience and service equals love!

Our Passion Test! "Love not the world order... *if any man loves the world order the love of the Father is not in him!* For all that is in the world order; the lust of the flesh and the eyes and the pride of life *is not of the Father but of the world!*" **1J2.15** *Whoever is the friend of the world order is the enemy of God!*" **Jam 4.4**

The degree of our friendship with the world order is the opposing degree of our love for God!

It is nothing new that people love the world more than they do God, but it should not be "me!"

Declaration: "There, but for the grace of God, go I... but the grace given me was not received in vain!"

Jesus loves His Church!

Love for His Church... "Christ is the head of the church, Himself the savior of the Body... He loved and gave Himself for it so that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of the water of the word, to present it to Himself glorious, without spot or wrinkle, so that it would be holy and without blemish..." **Eph 5.23ff**
"Commending His love toward us, *Christ died for us while we were still sinners!*" **Rom 5.8** "And *nothing can separate us* from the love of God in Christ Jesus! **Rom 8.39** "The love of Christ is *beyond our understanding and fills us with the fullness of God!*" **Eph 3.19** And walk in the love that Christ had for us *giving Himself for us as an offering and sacrifice to God...*" **Eph 5.2**

Our Passion Test! How much “dying” are we willing to do for the sake of the brotherhood? By our love for one another they will know we are His(?)... and that we love Him(?) **J13.35, 1J4.20** What are you willing to “cleanse” so that the word, doctrine, God is not blasphemed? **1Pet4.8** *fervent love!* What separates your love/“brothers” “Not like us?” **Rom12.4ff 1Cor12.12ff**

It is nothing new that “brother strives with brother...” but it should not be by “my” hand or mouth!

Declaration: “By the grace of God, which was not received in vain, I will love and build His church!”

Jesus loves the World!

Love for the World... “He is the offering for our sins: and not for ours only, *but also for the sins of the whole world.*” **1J2.2** “The Lord is not willing that any should perish, *but that all should come to repentance.*” **2Pet3.9** “I came not to call the righteous, *but sinners to repentance.*” **Lk 5.32** “This is a faithful saying to be accepted, that *Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...*” **1Tim1.15** “Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die and not that he should repent from his ways and live? *I have no pleasure in the death of him that dies in sin... so turn and live!*” **Ezek 18.23, 32 33.11** “It is your *Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*” **Lk 12.32** “It is the good pleasure of His will *to make us adopted in Christ Jesus!*” **E1.5**

Our Passion Test! Are we hot to tell the world of God’s love so that they can believe and be saved? Are we willing to leave holy huddles to run out onto the field of sometimes inconvenient, frightening, service? Are we so cold that we have any willingness, or secret pleasure, in anyone perishing eternally?

It is nothing new that people are intimidated by, and pull back from, the mission... but it won’t be “me!”

Declaration: “By the grace of God, the love I have received is not in vain... I will love and go to the world!”

If we are going to love what Jesus loves, we are going to “endure” the temptations and contradictions of the world...

If we are going to love His Church, we are going to “forgive” the “transgressions” and bind our hearts together...

If we are going to love God, our Father, we are going to “serve” His will, just like Jesus, all the way to the end!