

Jesus Is Love

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Matthew 16:13-15 – ¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Who you say Jesus is to you is everything.

Our entire lives are governed by what we believe about God, not what we desire.

The most important belief you can establish is what you believe about God!

I John 4:8-10 – ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

The "Love Chapter" defines how God acts toward you!

I Corinthians 13:4-8 – ⁴ God endures long and is patient and kind to me; God never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display himself haughtily. ⁵ God is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); He is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. God does not insist on its own rights or his own way, for He is not self-seeking; He is not touchy or fretful or resentful; He takes no account of the evil done to Him and He pays no attention to a suffered wrong. ⁶ He does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. ⁷ God bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of me, His hopes toward me are fadeless under all circumstances, and His love toward me and in me endures everything without weakening. ⁸ God never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end].

I John 4:16-19 – ¹⁶ And we have known, believed and come to trust the love that God has toward us. God is love and he that dwells in love, dwells in God and God in him. ¹⁷ It is through this understanding that love has attained its perfection in us, enabling us to be bold, have perfect or absolute confidence and fearlessness on the day of judgment, for we realize that our life in this world is actually his life lived in and through us! ¹⁸ There is absolutely no fear in love! Perfect love cast out fear. If a man fears, there is something imperfect in his understanding of love. There is no fear in love (dread does not exist), but full grown, complete and perfect love turns fear out of the doors and expels every trace of terror! For fear brings with it the thought of punishment and is tormenting and so he who is afraid (of punishment from God) has not reached the full

maturity of love and has not yet grown into love's complete perfection. ¹⁹ We love him, because he first loved us!

Most of us believe that God loves us and desires to help and bless us based upon our performance, religious observances, and how we feel about ourselves; not on the basis of the nature of God—which is love.

If you are afraid of God or expect punishment from Him, you don't yet understand who He is and how much He loves you.

How does this apply to my everyday life?

Understanding His love is the foundation from which you base every decision you make.

Religion has taught us to run from God.

Believe His love and move into the life He has planned for you!