

# "The Long and the Short of It" (It's Time to Agree with God) Week 2

Sermon date 5/7/2017

## MY STORY

- 1) What was your takeaway from last week's study?
- 2) What did you learn about the apostle Peter from last week?

## QUICK REVIEW

- 3) Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, was there anything that caught your attention?

## The Goal

Last week we examined the life of Peter, his past and his betrayal of Jesus. This week we will continue to study him, but we will shift gears and take a deeper look at what the Bible's answers are to the questions we posed in the "Taking it Home" section of the study. We will begin with the premise: who God says I am and who God says he is. These principles are so foundational because it is when we know how much God loves us we that trust him deeper and return his love for us by learning to imitate Christ, and as we imitate Christ we bear fruit and see the positive results of following Jesus, which leads to a deeper trust of God's love for us. It becomes a cycle of growth in our lives.

## DIGGING DEEPER

Last week we touched on the following question of; Who does God say I am, and who Does God say he is? This study we will unpack some verses and make them personal to us.

John 3:16

<sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.<sup>i</sup>

4) According to the verse, who does God say you are if you believe in him?

He loves you so much he would sacrifice his son for you.

5) How much do you have to love someone to be willing to sacrifice your own son?

6) How does His love make you feel and what does it say about who you are to him?

Psalm 139:17-18

<sup>17</sup> How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

<sup>18</sup> If I would count them, they are more than the sand.

I awake, and I am still with you.<sup>i</sup>

7) According to the verse, how much does God think about you?

More than the sand on the sea shore.

8) How does knowing that God thinks about you so much make you feel?

Remember he thinks about you because he loves you. His thoughts are for your benefit not how he can make your life more miserable.

9) What does this verse reveal about God's character? (Who he is)

He is vast in his ability to love.

Lamentations 3:22-23

<sup>22</sup> The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;  
his mercies never come to an end;

<sup>23</sup> they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.<sup>i</sup>

10) What do these verses say about who God is?

He is consistent, (steadfast) his love never ceases his faithfulness is new every morning.

11) What would it be like to receive something brand new every morning?

Use some example like a bike. You get a brand-new bike every day. It never grows old or wears out. Every morning it is new.

12) What does that Kind of faithfulness do for your heart? How does it encourage you?

Romans 5:8

<sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

13) What does the verse reveal about God's character?

He loves sinners, he demonstrated his love for us even when we deeply offended him.

14) What is a natural response to being loved?

We tend to love in return.

## TAKING IT HOME

Knowing and trusting God's love can be two different things at times. I can know it in my mind but if I don't feel it in my heart I will never truly respond to it. Many Christians try behavioral modification to be more Christ like, but changing your behavior without Jesus possessing my affections only leads to discouraged Christians trying to measure up to a standard that is impossible to attain.

When I truly trust, God's love for me and believe and behave as if I am loved I naturally want to respond in kind. I want to return his love for me. The way I do that is to follow Jesus and the example he demonstrated for me through the Bible. In responding by imitating God grows spiritual fruit in my life (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and self-control) and I see his goodness and I begin to trust him even more.

Follow → Trust His Love → respond with love → imitate = bear fruit (transform) → trust more deeply

That is the cycle<sup>ii</sup>

15) In thinking about this cycle, where do you find yourself most often?

16) Have you ever tried behavior modification in following Christ? How did that turn out?

Beth Moore once said "we all meditate on something."

17) How do you think you would change if every day you meditated on how much God loves you?

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

18) How does the verse say we can be transformed?

By [renewing our mind, meditating or thinking about](#)

19) How would thinking about God's love for you just as you are become transformative?

This is a crossroad in the journey where we can choose to trade the lie (God doesn't love me, or he is out to get me, or whatever lie you have believed) for the truth (I am so completely and radically loved by God)

## CHAIR TIME TOOL

This week take one verse each day and spend time thinking about how incredibly loved you are by God.

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<sup>i</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#) (Wheaton: Standard Bible Society, 2016), Ps 139:17–18.

<sup>ii</sup> Raising Your Faith IQ (Roseville: Leonard Lee 2017) Pg 9