

Honesty and the Love of God

Jesus said the most important thing we can do with our lives is to love God foremost of all. If we are told to love God first and foremost, then it stands to reason that God's love for us and our love for Him is the most transformative experience in life. How is life transformed by the love of God? Nobody would ever be able to fully answer that question but this seminar seeks to understand some of the deep ways God's love benefits us.

Jerry Root is an Associate Professor of Christian Education at Wheaton College and serves as the Director of the Evangelism Initiative. Jerry is a graduate of Whittier College and Talbot Graduate School of Theology at Biola University; he received his PhD from the Open University. Jerry is the author or co-author of numerous books on C.S. Lewis, including *The Surprising Imagination of C.S. Lewis: An Introduction*, with Mark Neal, *C.S. Lewis and a Problem of Evil: An Investigation of a Pervasive Theme*, and *The Soul of C.S. Lewis: A Meditative Journey through Twenty-six of His Best Loved Writings*. Jerry is the co-author of *The Sacrament of Evangelism* and co-editor, with Wayne Martindale, of *The Quotable C.S. Lewis*. He also teaches graduate courses (MA in Evangelism and Leadership Program) and undergraduate courses (Christian Formation and Ministry Department) at Wheaton College. In addition, Jerry has been a visiting professor at Talbot Graduate School of Theology and Biola University from 1990 to the present. He and his wife, Claudia, have four grown children - all of whom are married - and thirteen grandchildren.

I. The Great Commandment

1. Love God
2. Love of Neighbor
3. Pascal, *The Pensees* : Christians have two laws better than all the laws of statecraft”.

II. What Does the Love of God Mean for Christians Day after Day?

1. C.S. Lewis and the Great Sin
2. Film: *The Notebook*
3. Security: I John 3:1-3; 4:18

III. How Does the Love of God affect my life as I live it day after day?

1. Jerry Sittser: “We are most like God when we are most unlike Him in our relationship with Him.”
2. C.S. Lewis: “Man approaches God most nearly when he is in one sense least like God. For what can be more unlike than fullness and need, sovereignty and humility, righteousness and penitence, limitless power and a cry for help?”
3. I John 4:17 “As He is so also are we in this world.”

IV. Evaluation of Our Love for God: Four Diagnostic Questions

V. Conclusion