

Beltway Park

That's What God Said Place Me Like a Seal Beltway Park December 13, 2009

Texts: Matthew 22:34-40 (p.980), Song of Songs 8:6-8 (p.673)

The most natural response to great acts of _____ is to _____ in return.

Do you find it intriguing that most of our thoughts about what it means to be a Christian are not primarily about love? They have to do with _____ like ethics, morality and obedience.

Why do we make our faith about so many things other than _____ when the very reason for Christianity is God's great love?

First and foremost, Christians are God's _____.

The best synonym of the essence of what it means to be a Christian is this: _____.

Jesus is telling us that our lives are _____, and we must make sure they hang on the right things so we can have all the life God desires for us to have.

We will not understand the rest of the Bible without these two commandments being central to our lives. If we do not fight to keep these central and foundational, then we will at best become powerless, disillusioned, _____ religious people.

At its very core, Christianity is very simple. Following God is not ultimately what we do or don't do. It is not ultimately about what we know or we don't know. I'm not saying those things aren't important – just not _____.

Christianity is first and foremost about loving God and _____ in that love for Him.

The kind of love Jesus is talking about here is not a “I love my dog” or “I love racquetball” kind of love. It is not even a “I love my children” kind of love. It is a _____, greater love. It is why God likens our relationship to Him as that of a husband and wife. (*Hos. 2:14,16*)

The closest human relationship that God can use to describe His intensity of love for us and His desired response from us is marriage. But honestly, our love for God should grow to be even greater and more _____ than even marital love.

With every part of us in _____, we are called to love God. This is so radical and costly that we tend to shrink back from it and make our faith about morality and ethics instead of being a God-lover.

Christmas is ultimately about God’s _____, unlimited love for us. The most natural response to that kind of radical love is to love radically.

God, place me like a _____ over your heart.

God desires nothing more than what we ourselves desire in our closest relationship. He doesn’t desire that we obey because ultimately we _____ or that we don’t want to go to hell. (*Mt. 15:8-9*)

Love God, and _____.
Augustine of Hippo, 4th Century.

If we daily seek to grow in our love for God to any level as radical as His love for us, everything else will fall into place. It is central. Everything hangs on this, because being a Christian _____ God-lover.
