



GOD'S LOVE LANGUAGE: How to Make God Smile

Matthew 22:34-40; 25:31-40

OPEN

Look at the descriptions of the *Five Love Languages* below. Which is your primary love language—how you feel loved by others?

1. **Words of Affirmation.** I love you. You did a great job. I'm proud of you.
2. **Physical Touch.** A hug, a held hand, a cuddle on the couch or more.
3. **Quality Time.** A lazy breakfast. An afternoon outing. An unplugged evening or vacation.
4. **Personal Gifts.** A piece of jewelry. Sports equipment. An electronic gadget. Something of personal value.
5. **Acts of Service.** A base covered. A chore done. Some practical relief given.

Think about the close relationships in your life. Do you find yourself loving others according to THEIR love languages, or do you try to love them in the love language most natural to you?

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Read the two Scriptures above from the Gospel of Matthew.

- In Matthew 22, what does it mean that *ALL the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments*?
- In Matthew 25, who are those before Christ at judgment?
- Who are those getting the great reward at the end? Why do you think the "sheep" did not even know they had done well?

- *NOTE: Do you know the crucial difference between sheep and goats? Goats tend to go their own way in life. Sheep are creatures that learn to follow the shepherd's voice.*

DISCUSS

Last Week's Big Idea: *The great call of God is to learn to look and live in an OTHERWARD direction -- like God does.*

How does loving others according to their love language help fulfill what Jesus is saying in Matthew 22 and 25?

Why do we struggle to love others well (according to their needs)? Is there a common root to the answers just given?

Respond to this quote from the weekend message:

In the end, Jesus is not going to evaluate you or me on the basis of whether we went to church, or knew the Bible, or hung around with the right people, but on whether or not we actually GOT HIS HEART. Don't get me wrong. God cares deeply about Christian worship, education and fellowship. These are huge priorities for Christians everywhere and certainly here. But, at the end of the day, what he loves about these behaviors is the way they help shape a heart like his that moves toward OTHERS in acts of service.

What has challenged you from this week's sermon message and group study? How are you feeling prompted to respond?

NEXT STEPS

- Reflect on how you are loving those closest to you?
 - How are you loving them well?
 - What are the things you need to change to truly live into 1 Peter 4:10?
- Write down the love languages of the people closest to you? If you do not know, ask them using the descriptions above. This week, try to love each person according to their language in one or more ways.