

## INDICATORS OF BODILY POWERS THAT LOVE GOD:

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In this supplement to my expositional series on what it means to love God, I decided to put together positive and negative indicators to assist me in critically and reasonably reflecting upon the extent of my love for God. This way of re-examining my thoughts on the “Greatest Command” in Scripture comes out of a series of conversations with my friend Carson Smith on campus at Texas A&M University (spring 2009).

Recapping my expositional series on Mark 12:30 I raised the following question:

What does it mean to Love God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind, and with all your strength (Mark 12:30)? In my study of this passage I discovered the following truths:

- a. The “*heart*” emphasizes your deep-seated affections, your inner desires; it is the control center of your human personality;
- b. The “*soul*,” while it is a rich concept with a variety of meaning, we can say at least that it emphasizes your self-conscious thought life.
- c. The “*mind*” emphasizes your capacity to think, reason, understand, and make judgments.
- d. “*Strength*” emphasizes your bodily powers (physical & emotional capabilities).

Therefore, when you place your trust in Jesus Christ as Savior, you are given a new mind, a new heart, and a new will. Thus, when you the child of God, exercises your mind toward God to know Him, your heart to love Him, and your will to obey Him, then you are in fellowship with God. In his classic and unforgettable work, *Designed to be Like Him*, J. Dwight Pentecost makes the following observation:

...if any area of your personality is not in harmony with Him, then you are not enjoying fellowship with God. And because fellowship with Him is the reason we were created and then re-created in His image [2 Cor. 5:17; 3:18; Romans 8:29; 1 Cor. 2:16; Col. 3:10], we cannot glorify God apart from that fellowship.

Now having summarized my previous studies on the matter, I now turn our attention to the following list of indicators to assist me in critically pondering my love for God from out of all my bodily powers. The bottom line is that our behavior, choices, focus, habits, lifestyle, and pursuits reflect whether we are loving God with all our bodily powers.

I've heard it said we are largely identified with what we pursue. No doubt our bodily powers plays a large role.

To be sure, the following indicators should be viewed as "*road signs*." Some of these road signs are related and some are more important than others. Nevertheless, each of these indicators is designed to provoke critical self-evaluation that may motivate us with resolved and determination, by His enablement and yieldedness, to love God all the more.

What are indicators or "road signs" that you are loving God from out of your whole bodily

***I'm loving God from out of my whole soul when...***

1. My lifestyle reflects the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27);
2. I'm a God-honoring steward of what God has given me;
3. I control my tongue (James 3);
4. I physically flee from sin;
5. I refrain from violence;
6. I demonstrate agape love by meeting the practical needs of others;
7. Corporately worship God;
8. I consistently surrender myself, personal plans and goals in order to minister to those God has placed in my life;
9. I mourn for acts of rebellion against God personally and sociologically;
10. I celebrate Gods' perfections;
11. I turn away from my habitual sins;
12. I promote physical modesty;
13. I turn away from the allurements that appeals to sensuality;
14. I pursue sexual intimacy the way God has intended;
15. I redirect my energy, resources, and time in such a way to "magnify" my intimacy with God;
16. I "magnify" God by my death;
17. I press myself to glorify God in the midst of a world that is opposed to God;
18. When I consistently bear the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23);
19. I cultivate God-honoring habits (virtues) and resist the formation of bad habits (vices);  
I live the utmost to the glory of God;
20. My testimony before others consistently reflects faithfulness;
21. I pour my life out by being used by God to make disciples of Jesus Christ (Mark 8:34);
22. I deny myself of those things that inflame the frailties of the flesh, contribute to the counterfeit kingdom, and honor Satan;
23. I do not allow myself to in situations that might lead to moral compromise and corruption;

24. I do not risk my life recklessly;
25. I reject a life of laziness or mediocrity;
26. I refuse to live a life of mediocrity but one of moral and intellectual excellence;
27. I'm physically disciplined;
28. I consistently practice humility;
29. I acknowledge everything I have and all that I'm belongs to the Lord Almighty;
30. I fulfill my promises;
31. I live a lifestyle of evangelism;
32. I'm divinely enabled;
33. I listen to God;
34. I don't allow situations to dictate my spirituality;
35. Precepts of Scripture are practiced;
36. When I serve the unlovely with the love of Jesus Christ;
37. I listen to those who are wise and spiritually mature;
38. I meditate upon God's Word;
39. I cultivate an intense prayer life;
40. I refuse to associate with the idolatrous;
41. Live a life of grace and gratitude;
42. I reverently fear God;
43. I protect my family;
44. I contend for the Christian faith;
45. I physically work hard;
46. I keep a clear conscience;
47. I rejoice in the way God has made me;
48. I speak the truth in love and love in truth;
49. I inculcate Scripture into virtues;
50. I'm controlled by the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:16-18; Eph. 5:18).

***I'm not loving God with my bodily powers when...***

1. My lifestyle reflects rebellion against God;
2. My lifestyle reflects indifference to God;
3. My lifestyle reflects mediocrity; Christ is only a part of my life;
4. My lifestyle reflects ignorance of the things of God;
5. My lifestyle is entangled in affairs of corruption, compromise;
6. I seek to serve myself;
7. I pursue evil;
8. I'm lazy;
9. I commit gluttony;
10. I allow my situation to dictate my spiritual life;
11. I don't control my tongue;
12. I associate with debauchery and sensuality;
13. I'm involved in premarital sex and extramarital affairs;
14. I'm impulsive;

15. I walk in the flesh and not in the Spirit;
16. I'm in debt;
17. I'm prideful;
18. Overemphasize the physical over and against the spiritual;
19. I'm self centered;
20. I don't listen to others;
21. I choose not to make my life count for something Great;
22. I use others to accomplish my own goals;
23. I take pleasure in reckless hate;
24. I promote sin;
25. I lack self-control;
26. I live recklessly;
27. I violate the moral, natural law written upon the heart;
28. I grieve the conscience;
29. I quench the Holy Spirit's influence in my life;
30. I bear the fruit of iniquity.

A lifestyle of Jesus Christ is exemplified when I make it my life's ambition to be pleasing to Him (2 Corinthians 5:9-10);

To live a life pleasing to God the believer needs to realize that it is not merely a decision, but a life of consecration. It is not merely a life of consecration, but lifestyle separated from the things of the world. But it is not merely separation, but transformation by the renewing of the mind (Romans 12:1-2).