

A Vision of Love
Vision Sunday – Part 2
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¹² And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, **to walk in obedience to him, to love him**, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³ **and to observe the LORD’s commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?** (Deuteronomy 10:37-38).

³⁷ Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself’ (Matthew 22:37-38).

Biblical Jesus	vs	Post-Modern Jesus
Gives salvation, hope, peace, joy		Gives you health and wealth
Warns of sin, judgement and hell		Never says anything negative
Hated, despised by much of the world		Loved and accepted by the world
Exalts God. Does the Father’s will		Serves your will, not God’s
Offends the world with truth		Won’t offend anyone
Preaches God’s law		Preaches only on “love”

“God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus.” (1 John 4:16-17).

1. God is L_____. L_____ is not God

“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and

even now is already in the world. You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood” (1 John 4:1-6).

2. L_____ does not give a L_____ to sin

“What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ² By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?” (Romans 6:1-2).

3. L_____ thrives in a framework of God’s L_____

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them” (Matthew 6:17).

¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love” (1 Joh 4:18).

4. L_____ does not L_____ the other way

“Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, ¹³ because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment” (James 2:12-13).

²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world” (James 1:27).

²⁷ Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel (Philippians 1:27).

How to begin a relationship with Jesus...

- Admit** that you’ve sinned (missed the mark of perfection) (Rom3:23)
- Believe** that Jesus is Lord, that He died on the cross for your sins and was raised from the dead (Rom. 10:9, John 3:16, 1 Peter 1:3)
- Choose** Jesus. Turn to Him. Receive Him and love God above all (Matt. 22:37, Eph. 5:1).