



## Sermon Notes

### “True Christianity” 1Peter 1:8-9

Because this world was made by a triune God, relationships of love are what life is really all about. The essence of Christianity isn't rules, rituals or routines but about relationships.

### A Genuine Relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ involves...

#### Trusting Him b/c He is Solidly Reliable

(John14:6; James 2:19; Mark 1:15; John 1:12, 6:35)

- It's more than agreement with facts in the head but an appetite for God in the heart that exceeds all other appetites.
- There is a mutual giving and receiving of truth. (Ps25:14, 145:18; Jn15:15)

#### Loving Him b/c He is Supremely Desirable

- There is a mutual giving & receiving of love. It's His sacrificial love that awakens our love in response. (1Jn4:19; Eph3:16-19; 2Cor5:14-15)
- Love always wants to spend as much time as it can with the object of its love. (Mark 1:35; Luke4:42; Ps84:1-2, 10)
- Love always anticipates that persons desires wanting to please them. (Jn14:15, 15:14-15; 1Jn5:3)

#### Enjoying Him b/c He is Infinitely & Eternally Pleasurable

(Matt13:44; Jn15:11; Ps16:4, 11, 43:4; Jn16:22; Phil4:4)

- The longing to be happy is a universal human desire that should not be denied but pursued and nurtured with whatever provides the deepest & most enduring pleasure.
- The deepest and most enduring pleasure is found only in God. Not from God, but in God. “Inexpressible” = no words can fully express it. “Filled with glory” = nothing can ever compare with it.
- Nothing, not even suffering can rob you of this joy, except for idolatry.

Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.-Hebrews 12:2

## Growing Notes

1) What is the essence of True Christianity? Why do you think most would describe Christianity as rules, rituals or routines as opposed to a Genuine Relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ? What does a genuine relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ look like?

2) Read 1Peter 1:8-9. What stands out to you from these verses? Why do you think that people who fit this description (1Pet1:8-9) would contagiously attract people to Christ? Why would this be the best method of evangelism? What does it mean that Christianity is first and foremost a matter of the heart (love, trust, and joy), not a matter of external performances? Why is that important?

3) True Christianity is trusting Christ b/c He is Solidly Reliable (Jn14:6; James2:19; Mark1:15; Jn1:12, 6:35). Explain. Why is it more than agreement with facts in the head but an appetite for God in the heart that exceeds all other appetites? How does mutual giving and receiving of truth with God nurture that appetite (Ps25:14, 145:18; Jn15:15)? True Christianity is loving Christ b/c He is supremely desirable. Explain. How do you mutually give & receive love from Christ (1Jn4:19; Eph3:16-19; 2Cor5:14-15)?

4) True Christianity is Enjoying Christ b/c He is Infinitely & Eternally Pleasurable (Matt13:44; Jn15:11; Ps16:4, 11, 43:4; Jn16:22; Phil4:4). Explain. Why is it that nothing, not even suffering can rob you of this joy, except for idolatry? If God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him then what should be our highest daily priority? How does knowing that you were His joy make Him your joy (Hebrews12:2)? Pray that db would be a people of True Christianity (trust, love & unspeakable & glorious Joy).