Intro: tone = positive (assume doing)
- 1 Cor. 16:22 serious, grave: if not love the Lord, accursed – doomed to destruction
- lesson: Do You Love The Lord?

Do you love (agape) God with all. . . . – more than. . . . - mental commitment
- Mk. 12:30 love (agape), all heart, all soul, all mind, all strength – every ounce of your being
  - illus.: song, All In All – is God your all in all - everything – the reason get up everyday

- Jn. 3:16; 1 Jn. 4:8-10 love (agape), God gave only Son, believe, saved
  - Do you love God as much as He loves you? – have you given your life to Him

- important thoughts: but not really what I want to talk about today
Do you love (phileo) God? - affectionate, emotional – Greek words this section phileo or a form of
- we are emotional, affectionate people as created by God
  - 2 Tim. 3:4 will either be lovers of pleasures or lovers of God
  - must direct our emotions properly, toward God, else we’ll direct them toward sin

Jesus loved Lazarus (phileo)
- Jn. 11:33-36 Jesus’ love (phileo) for Lazarus evident when He wept at his death, although knew would raise from dead
  - phileo is the affection we have for others, involves our emotions
    - phileo is the affectionate love a mother has for a baby, not the commanded love (agape) a man has for his enemies

We must love (phileo) Jesus more than anyone else – even self
- Matt. 10:37, 38-39 love (phileo) more than anyone else

How do we properly direct our emotions toward God (Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit)?
- Mk. 12:30 based on a firm commitment (agape) to always do what is right toward God
  - commit our whole heart to God, including emotions, to serve Him faithfully
  - as taught in His word (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3-4)

illus.: Jn. 21:15-17 Jesus’ three questions - Peter’s commitment
- Jesus uses agape first two times, phileo last time
- Peter answers all three times with phileo
- What do we learn about agape vs. phileo in a disciple’s life? - controversial
  - agape foundation upon which our affections are built – godly affections (phileo)
- Do you have a strong affectionate commitment (phileo) to God (Father, Jesus), based an unwavering commitment (agape) to obey Him?
  - phileo without agape wrong – agape without phileo impossible (Mk. 12:30; 1 Cor. 16:22)
Do you love (phileo) the Lord more than anyone else?
- What does it mean to love someone? (phileo)
  - illus.: young people often ask, how do you know when you really love someone – “The One”
  - below: thoughts regarding family love, by which we can compare our live for God
  - Matt. 10:37 must love Jesus more than family

- You long to be with people you love!
  - illus.: Allan, girls college, have to stay in Tampa, at home unless live on campus at FC
  - 2 Cor. 5:2-3, 8 groan, long to be with the Lord
  - illus.: Rev. 22:20b John, “Come, Lord Jesus.”
  - Do you long to be with the Lord in heaven? How badly do you want to be with the Lord?
    - if you could leave earth (family) and be with Jesus right now, would you choose to go

- You talk to people you love – learn more about them!
  - illus.: like to call parents, know how things are going, what doing, what’s happening
  - illus.: like to talk to girls every day, when don’t there’s a void
  - 1 Th. 5:16-17 talk to God daily, all the time – “pray without ceasing”
  - Ps. 119:105 want God to talk to us, constantly – word “lamp to my feet” - read, meditate, think

- You think about people you love, esp. when you’re apart!
  - illus.: close to grandmother later in life, sometimes want to pick the phone and call
  - illus.: when Beth first starting taking girls to Indiana, summer, thought I saw them and heard them
    - think about constantly, pray about all the time, can’t wait till get back – though enjoy little peace
  - Ps. 63:6 David, “I meditate on You in the night watches”
  - L.S.: think about Jesus, sacrifice, esp. relating to our salvation
    - as much as spouse, parents, school friends, boyfriend, girlfriend,

- You talk about people you love! - because think about them all the time
  - illus.: parent, grandparent, anxious to pull out pics and show, tell about accomplishment
  - illus.: kids talking, “My dad. . . .” “My mom. . . .”
  - Lk. 12:8 confess Jesus before men / Rom. 10:10 confess resulting in salvation
  - Do you talk about God? - Jesus? - what they have done for you? - confess?
    - like it? enjoy it? look for opportunities? don’t care if someone thinks you’re silly? can’t stop?

- You want to make them happy – please them – do good things for! (people you love)
  - illus.: spouse, child to parent, parent to child – make happy, please, give presents, give better life
    - 1 Cor. 7:33-34 husband wants to please wife, wife wants to please husband
  - Do you want to please God? - most important thing in life is pleasing God
    - Col. 1:10 please Lord, every respect
  - Do you want to give God gifts?
    - Rom. 12:1 give self, sacrifice
    - illus.: #335, Live For Jesus (vs. 1, chorus)

- You never want to hurt people you love!
  - illus.: Eph. 5:28-29 loving husband never hurt wife, rather nourish and cherish
  - How concerned are you about hurting the Lord?
- **Heb. 10:29** sin: trample Jesus under foot, regard Jesus’ blood as unclean, insult Spirit of grace

- **You will die for people you love!**
  - **Jn. 15:13** Jesus is your friend, loves you, died for you
  - Are you Jesus’ friend? Do you love Him? Have you died for Him?
  - **Jn. 15:14** lay down life in obedience to His commands

**Summary / Inv.**
- Do you love **God** (Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit)? – mental commitment, affectionate commitment
  - more than anyone or anything else - including self
- Do you long to be with God?
- Do you think about God all the time?
- Do you talk about God?
- Do you want to make God happy – please Him – do good things for Him?
- Do you do your best to never hurt God?
- Have you laid down your life for Jesus – obey His commands?
  - inv.