

## 引言 INTRODUCTION

We all love something and someone. You may love spicy food, love to travel or love to exercise. Most Asian men find it hard to say “I love you” to someone. They only say that to the girl they are dating. But it is easier for a mom to express her love to kids verbally. Besides speaking it out, there are other ways to show your love to others. Christian author Dr. Gary Chapman popularizes “The Five Love Languages” when he published his book in 1992. Those five ways are: words of affirmation, quality time, physical touch, acts of service and receiving gifts. Jesus also used those five ways to love people. He praised people with His words. He spent time with His disciples. He showed compassion by touching patients. He served people by acts of kindness. His salvation grace is a priceless gift given to us. God loves us first, and we should love Him back. We will continue to ponder on the mission statement of our church as we come to the second line. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we must “love God supremely.” We should love God first, love Him only and completely. That command is derived from Deuteronomy 6:5 – **You shall love the Lord you God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.** Traditional Jews recite that verse every day. Moses was not dividing a person into three compartments. He meant that we must love God with our whole person. Jesus quoted that verse when someone asked Him which was the greatest commandment. He boiled down the Law to two mandates: love God fully and love people like ourselves. That is part of the mission for Jesus’ disciples.

## 解釋 EXPLANATION

## 1. 討主喜悅 Please God’s Heart

How can we love a God we cannot see? First, we can love God by pleasing His heart. It works the same way in a human relationship. You do the things people feel loved. We can please God’s heart by obeying Him. Look at 1 John 2:4-5 – **4 Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, 5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him.** The phrase “the love of God” can also be translated as “the love for God.” Expression of love must be mutual. It is painful if a boy loves a girl who does not love him at all. Likewise, our love for God is also reciprocal. The more we experience God’s love, the more we should love Him. Here, John equates loving God to obeying His instructions. John recalls a command Jesus made to the disciples at the Last Supper. A person who knows God should know how to please Him. The word “know” here is not a superficial knowledge. Sports fans know the players in a team they cheer for. Star-chasers know the background of the actors they like. In the Bible, the word “know” often refers to a deep understanding due to a close relationship. You know certain things about your family members or good friends that few people know. Then you will know what birthday gifts to buy for them, what colors and brands they prefer. The question for you is: do you desire to know God so that you will love Him more? God’s will is not a classified information. It is all written in the Bible. Psalm 119:97 says: **Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.** The psalmist further elaborates in verse 103: **How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!** The psalmist loves God by loving His Word. It gives him a sweet sensation. He studies it, memorizes it and thinks about it all day long. What

and who you love the most will stay in your mind. Working moms will think of their kids at day-care while working. Lovers will miss their boyfriend/girlfriend soon after they say goodbye to each other. Do you love to read God's Word and think of it often? Someone describes the Bible as a love letter from God. Nowadays we frequently communicate via messaging because it is convenient and quick. But words on a screen are nothing compared to words in ink. I save some of the cards and notes people wrote to me. Those words encourage me. Do you feel the same way every time you read the Bible? I am sure your attitude will be very different if you treat the Bible as God's message of love. Daily Bible reading is no longer a burden but a delight. Another way we can please God is to serve Him. There is a story in Luke 7 about a woman who had a sinful past. She came to the house of Simon when he was hosting a dinner for Jesus and some guests. She used her tears to moisten Jesus' feet then used her hair to wipe them clean. Next she kissed Jesus' feet and poured some expensive oil onto them. Everyone was shocked, wondering how a teacher like Jesus would allow such a woman to touch Him. Jesus explains in verse 47: **"Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven – for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little."** She felt accepted by Jesus. Therefore, she served Him out of love in return. She treated Jesus with an extravagant service. She did not mind how people might look at her. Your service and gift represent your love. A guy will not take his girlfriend to a dollar store and tell her to pick whatever she likes. He will not celebrate her birthday at a McDonald's either. He will present the best he can afford. Similarly, it will be strange to ask what minimum we should give to express our love to God. If the Bible says everyone only has to give \$10 to their church each month, then perhaps no one will give \$20. God deserves the best from us. He does not need anything from us. But His heart is pleased when we present our money, time and resources to Him out of love.

## 2. 頌主聖名 Praise God's Name

We should love God by pleasing His heart. Secondly, we should also love God by praising His name. We love to hear words of praise like "good job!" and "nice clothes." If we love to receive praise, how much more does our God enjoy our praise? David says in Psalm 34:1 – **I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.** David praised God often because he experienced God's goodness. God watched over him, provided for his needs and saved him from harm. God does not sit up high in heaven. He is working actively in our lives. That is why David encourages us in verse 8: **Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!** If we taste God's goodness in our life circumstances, then we will echo with David that God is good all the time. The busyness of life can easily distract our attention. We often focus on our schedule, deadlines and duties. Our to-do list is longer than a CVS receipt. We live for others' expectations while forgetting that we should live for God's glory. We need to rest in the Lord every now and then to reflect on our relationship with Him. Perhaps you can step outside and breathe some fresh air for a few minutes. Look at the clouds and listen to the birds, then thank God for His creation. God is always around you and in you. That reminds me of a Christian named Brother Lawrence. He lived in the 17<sup>th</sup> century France. Lawrence grew up in a poor family. He did not receive much education. He joined the army and fought in battles to make a living. Afterward, he became a cook in a monastery. His peaceful demeanor and his love for God were evident. People visited him and sought his spiritual insight. Some of those conversations and letters Lawrence wrote were compiled in a book titled "The Practice of the Presence of God" after his death. Lawrence said: "How can we pray to Him,

without being with Him? How can we be with Him, but in thinking of Him often?” He also said: “I am doing now what I will do for all eternity. I am blessing God, praising Him, adoring Him, and loving Him with all my heart.” Lawrence turned the kitchen hall to a worship hall. Cooking and cleaning allowed him to experience God. When we think of God often, then we will praise Him no matter where we are and what we are doing. Paul puts it this way in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 – **16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.** Paul suffered persecution and imprisonment for sharing the gospel. But yet he could rejoice and give thanks to God. It is hard for self-centered people to praise God. On the one hand, they are filled with pride, thinking that they can handle everything without God. On the other hand, they are occupied by self-pity. They think they are the most unfortunate people in the world when they face problems. Both extremes are not consistent with the Bible. We are God’s beloved children. He cares for us. If we love God, then our praise for Him should be as natural as breathing. That will no doubt enhance our corporate worship. If you feel God’s presence in daily life, then you will experience His presence in the church. You will come on time and turn your phone off without being asked. You freely raise your arms when singing and softly echo “amen” when God’s Word touches your heart without feeling awkward. Worship is no longer a religious gathering. You come as a participant and not a spectator. You will not ask what you can get out of this weekly meeting. But you are eager to praise God’s name. Such mentality and expressions of love will definitely be contagious.

### 3. 傳主作為 Proclaim God’s Work

We love God by pleasing His heart and by praising His name. Thirdly, we can love God by proclaiming His work. Little kids love to brag about their dads. Their fathers can fix things, build a house and even save the world! If we are proud to be God’s children, then we should tell others about our Heavenly Daddy too! First, we should proclaim God’s work among believers. Psalm 40:9-10 says: **9 I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; behold, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord. 10 I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.** The word “congregation” refers to a faith community. We can call it a church or a fellowship. “Salvation” can mean a rescue from danger or sickness, or saving of one’s soul. God showed His love and His faithfulness in those situations. We studied this common Hebrew word for “love” in the past. It describes a commitment based on a covenant. The whole Bible is a collection of God’s faithful work. He treats us the same way today. We all have experienced God’s faithfulness in big and small ways. We should proclaim God’s work among us. You do not have to wait till the next Thanksgiving to share your testimony. You can do so in your small group meeting or post it on social media. Perhaps I can incorporate your story in a sermon too! The second group of people to whom we can proclaim God’s work is our children. Look at Psalm 78:4 – **We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.** In the context, the psalmist recalls how God saved his ancestors from Egypt and how He watched over them in the wilderness. The psalmist determined to pass on those history to his children so that they would not forget about God. Today, the Lord gives parents the same duty. Bringing our kids to the church is just an initial step. We have to talk about God at home too. Family members can share at the dinner table how they experienced God. They can pray together when someone has a big exam, the house needs a major repair and

they can thank God for answered prayers. Tell your kids how God saved you and blessed you with success. Then they will know that the Bible is not an antique story book and faith is not some abstract idea. God is still working today. We should proclaim God's work among believers and to our children. Thirdly, we have to proclaim God's work to gospel-seekers. Psalm 145:10-12 read: **10 All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you! 11 They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power, 12 to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.** Here, "the children of man" can be understood as the general mankind. Jesus told us that Christians should be salt and light in the world. We reflect God's compassion, kindness and grace through actions. You will attract people's attention when you say grace before lunch. Also, your classmates or colleagues know from casual chatting that you attend church on the weekend. They will ask what you believe, and how you know God is real. You can talk about God's work in the Bible and in your life. Every Christian has a personal story called salvation testimony. It will be helpful to incorporate simple Bible verses like John 3:16 as you speak. Then you elaborate what those verses mean and how they affect your life. People will realize that God is a personal being and not just a concept, life has meaning because God has a purpose for us and our sole focus should not be in this world because there is an eternity. Jesus wants people to know Him and to build an everlasting relationship with Him.

## 結論 CONCLUSION

God loves us first, and we should love Him back. We can love God by pleasing His heart, praising His name and proclaiming His work. To a certain extent, our love for people is similar to our love for God. The movie "Ode to My Father" tells the love of Yoon Duk-soo for his father. Yoon was less than ten-year-old when his family evacuated from North Korea in 1950. Yoon's father gave him an important task of taking care of his youngest sister. Unfortunately, the two siblings were separated in the crowd. The father turned back to look for his girl. He said to Yoon: "If I don't come back, then you're the head of the family. You must put the family first in everything." The family moved in to the home of an aunt, who owned a small grocery store. Yoon worked odd jobs to provide for his family. He sacrificed the opportunity to go to school so that his two younger siblings could attend college. The family bought the aunt's store after she passed away. Sometime later, some TV stations in South Korea launched an effort to reunite family members who were split up in the Korean war. By odd coincidence, Yoon was able to find his lost sister, who happened to be adopted by an American family. The whole family erupted in joy. In the last scene of the movie, the retired Yoon told his wife why he refused to sell the store all along. His dad told him that he would go to the store and find them if he came back. By this time, his dad must have been long gone. Yoon loved the father he could not see by keeping his promise. Today, we can surely love a Heavenly Father we cannot see. We love Him by honoring Him in our life and telling others about Him.

## 引言 INTRODUCTION

我們都愛某些事情和人。你可能喜歡吃辣的東西、喜歡旅遊或喜歡運動。大多數東方男士們很難開口對別人說「我愛你」。他們只會對女朋友那樣說。但是媽媽們更容易用語言表達對孩子的愛。除了說出來之外，還有其他方式向別人表達愛。基督徒作家蓋瑞·巧門 (Gary Chapman) 在 1992 年出版的書中推廣了「五種愛的語言」。那五種方式是：肯定的言語、精心的時刻、身體的接觸、服務的行動和贈送的禮物。耶穌也用這五種方式來愛人。祂用言語讚賞人。祂花時間與門徒相處。祂觸摸病人表現憐憫。祂為別人服務。祂的救恩是無價的禮物。神先來愛我們，因此我們也應該愛祂。我們將繼續思考我們教會使命宣言的第二句話。作為耶穌基督的門徒，我們必須「全心地愛神」。我們應該先愛神，只愛祂，並完全地愛祂。這個命令是根據申命記 6:5 – 「你要盡心、盡性、盡力愛耶和華—你的神。」直到今天，傳統的猶太人仍然每天背誦這節經文。摩西並不是把一個人分成三部分。他的意思是我們必須全人愛神。當有人問耶穌哪一條是最大的誡命時，祂引用了這節經文來回答。耶穌將律法總結為兩個要求：完全愛神和愛別人如同愛自己。這是作為耶穌門徒使命的一部分。

## 解釋 EXPLANATION

### 1. 討主喜悅 Please God's Heart

我們如何去愛一位看不見的神？首先，我們可以透過討主的喜悅來愛祂。我們在人際關係中也是這樣做的。你以別人覺得被愛的方式對待他。我們可以藉著順服神來討祂的喜悅。請看約翰一書 2:4-5 – 4 人若說「我認識他」，卻不遵守他的誡命，便是說謊話的，真理也不在他心裏了。5 凡遵守主道的，愛神的心在他裏面實在是完全的。從此，我們知道我們是在主裏面。「愛神的心」也可翻譯為「神的愛」。愛的表達必須是相互的。如果一個男孩愛上一個根本不愛他的女孩，那是很痛苦的。同樣，我們對神的愛也是相互的。我們越經歷神的愛，就應該越愛祂。在這裡，約翰將愛神等同於遵守祂的吩咐。約翰回憶起耶穌在最後的晚餐上對門徒的命令。一個認識神的人應該知道如何討祂的喜悅。這裡的「認識」不是膚淺的知識。球迷認識他們支持的球隊中的球員。追星的人認識他們喜歡的名星的背景。在聖經中，「認識」這個字通常指由於密切的關係而產生的理解。你知道家人或好朋友的一些事情，是很少人知道的。然後你就會知道為他們準備什麼生日禮物，他們喜歡什麼顏色和牌子。問題是：你是否渴望更認識神，使你更愛祂？神的旨意不是機密信息，一切都寫在聖經裡。詩篇 119:97 說：我何等愛慕你的律法，終日不住地思想。詩人在第 103 節進一步分享：你的言語在我上膛何等甘美，在我口中比蜜更

**甜！**詩人通過愛神的話語來愛神。這給他一種甜蜜的感覺。他研讀、背誦、整天思考它。你最愛的人和事情會留在你的腦海裡。上班的媽媽會在工作時想到她在托兒所的孩子。情侶們在彼此告別後很快就會想念對方。你喜歡讀神的話語並時常想起它嗎？有人形容聖經是來自神的一封信。現在我們經常通過短信來交流，因為它方便快捷。但是屏幕上的文字遠遠不能和手寫的文字相比。我保存了一些別人寫給我的卡片和信，因為那些話鼓勵我。你每次讀聖經都有同樣的感覺嗎？如果你把聖經當作神愛的信息，我相信你的態度會很不一樣。每日讀經不再是一種負擔，而是一種享受。我們討神喜悅的另一種方式是服事祂。路加福音第 7 章中有一個故事，關於一個過去犯罪的女人。那天西門請耶穌和一些客人吃飯，那位女士進來。她用眼淚弄濕耶穌的腳，然後用頭髮擦乾淨。接下來，她親耶穌的腳，並在上面倒了一些昂貴的油。每個人都很震驚，不明白為何耶穌會讓這樣的女人碰祂。耶穌在第 47 節解釋說：「**所以我告訴你，她許多的罪都赦免了，因為她的愛多；但那赦免少的，他的愛就少。**」她被耶穌接納。因此，她以愛來回應。她以尊貴的方式服事耶穌。那位女士不介意別人怎麼看她。你的服務和禮物代表你的愛。一位男士不會帶他的女朋友去一元店，然後告訴她隨便挑她喜歡的東西。他也不會帶他女朋友去麥當勞慶祝生日。他會擺上他能負擔得起最好的服務。同樣地，如果我們問最低應該付出多少來表達對神的愛，也會很奇怪。如果聖經說每個人每個月只需要奉獻 10 美元給教會，那麼也許沒有人會給 20 美元。神配得我們給祂最好的。祂不需要我們任何東西。但是，當我們出於愛將我們的金錢、時間和資源獻給祂時，祂的心會很喜悅。

## 2. 頌主聖名 Praise God's Name

我們應該通過討主的喜悅來愛祂。其次，我們也應該通過頌主聖名來愛祂。我們都喜歡聽到「做得得好！」或「你的衣服很漂亮」之類的讚美。如果我們喜歡接受讚美，我們的神豈不是更喜歡我們的讚美嗎？大衛在詩篇 34:1 中說：**我要時時稱頌耶和華；讚美他的話必常在我口中。**大衛常常讚美神，因為他經歷了神的美善。神看顧著他，供應他的需要並拯救他免受傷害。神並不是高高坐在天上，祂積極地參與在我們的生活中。這就是為什麼大衛在第 8 節中鼓勵我們：**你們要嘗嘗主恩的滋味，便知道他是美善；投靠他的人有福了！**如果我們在生活中嚐到神的美善，我們就會認同大衛，神真的是美好。生活的忙碌很容易分散我們的注意力。我們經常關注我們的時間表和責任。我們事情的清單比藥房的收據還長。我們為別人的期望而活，卻忘記了我們應該為神的榮耀而活。我們需要經常安息在主裡，思考我們與祂的關係。或許你可以到外面呼吸幾分鐘新鮮空氣。看看雲，聽聽鳥叫，然後感謝神的創造。神總是在你身邊，也在你的裡面。這讓我想起一位名叫勞倫斯弟兄 (Brother Lawrence) 的基督徒。他生活在 17 世紀的法國。勞倫斯在一個貧窮的家庭長大。他沒有受過多少教育。他曾經為了生活參軍打仗。後來，他在一家修道院當廚師。他平和的態度和他對神的愛是顯而易見的。人們拜訪他並尋求他的屬靈的指

示。勞倫斯死後，他一些談話內容和信件被編入一本名為《操練與神同在》的書中。勞倫斯說：「我們如果不靠近神，怎麼向祂禱告呢？我們如果不經常想到神，又怎能與祂在一起呢？」他還說：「我情願在永恆裡做我現在做的事情。我稱謝神、讚美祂、敬拜祂、全心全意地愛祂。」勞倫斯把廚房變成了敬拜神的禮堂。做飯和打掃衛生讓他經歷神。當我們經常想到神時，我們便會讚美祂，無論在哪裡，或是在做什麼事情。保羅在帖撒羅尼迦前書 5:16-18 這樣說：**16 要常常喜樂，17 不住地禱告，18 凡事謝恩；因為這是神在基督耶穌裏向你們所定的旨意。**保羅因為傳福音而遭受迫害和監禁，但他仍然有喜樂並感謝神。自我中心的人很難讚美神。一方面，他們充滿驕傲，認為沒有神他們也能搞定一切。另一方面，他們被自憐所佔據。當他們遇到問題時，他們認為自己是世界上最可憐的人。這兩個極端都不符合聖經。我們是神所愛的兒女。祂關心我們。如果我們愛神，那麼我們對祂的頌讚就應該像呼吸一樣的自然。這也會改善我們集體的敬拜。如果你在日常生活中感受到神的同在，那麼你就會在教會中更體驗到祂的同在。就算沒有人提醒你，你也會準時出席並關掉你的手機。唱詩時你會自然地舉起雙手，當神的話語觸動你的心時，你會輕聲回應「阿們」，卻不會感到尷尬。敬拜不再是個宗教聚會。你是一個參與者而不是旁觀者。你不會問你能從這個聚會中得到什麼。你渴望讚美神的名。這樣的心態和愛的表達肯定能感染別人。

### 3. 傳主作為 Proclaim God's Work

我們通過討主喜悅和頌主聖名來愛祂。第三，我們可以藉著傳主作為來愛祂。小孩子都喜歡誇耀他們的爸爸。他們的父親會修東西、蓋房子，甚至拯救世界！如果我們以身為神的兒女而感到自豪，我們也會向別人述說我們的天父！首先，我們應該在信徒中傳揚主的作為。詩篇 40:9-10 說：**9 我在大會中宣傳公義的佳音；我必不止住我的嘴唇。耶和華啊，這是你所知道的。10 我未曾把你的公義藏在心裏；我已陳明你的信實和你的救恩；我在大會中未曾隱瞞你的慈愛和誠實。**這裡的「大會」是指一個信仰群體。我們可以稱它為教會或團契。「救恩」可以指從危險或疾病中解救出來，或拯救一個人的靈魂。神在那些情況下顯示出祂的愛和信實。我們過去討論過「慈愛」這個常見的希伯來用詞。它描述基於盟約的承諾。整本聖經都收集了神信實的作為，祂今天以同樣的方式看待我們。我們在大大小小各方面經歷了神的信實。我們應該在信徒中間傳揚神的作為。你不必等到下一個感恩節才分享你的見證。你可以在小組聚會中談論，也可以在社交媒體上發佈。也許我也可以將你的故事放在講道之中！我們可以宣揚神作為的第二個對象是我們的孩子。請看詩篇 78:4 – **我們不將這些事向他們的子孫隱瞞，要將耶和華的美德和他的能力，並他奇妙的作為，述說給後代聽。**在上下文中，詩人回憶神如何將他的祖先從埃及拯救出來，以及祂如何在曠野看顧他們。詩人決定將這些歷史傳給他的孩子們，使他們不會忘記神。今天，主賦予父母同樣的責任。把我們的孩子帶到教會只是第一步。我們也必須在家裡談論神。一家人可以在餐桌上分享他們如何經歷神。當有成

員要準備考試，或是房子需要修理時，他們可以一起禱告。他們也可以感謝神回應了禱告。告訴你的孩子神如何拯救你並祝福你的成就。然後他們就會明白聖經不是一本古老的故事書，信仰也不是一些抽象的道理。神今天仍在作工。我們應該在信徒和我們的孩子中傳揚神的作為。第三，我們必須向福音朋友傳揚神的作為。詩篇 145:10-12 說：**10 耶和華啊，你一切所造的都要稱謝你；你的聖民也要稱頌你，11 傳說你國的榮耀，談論你的大能，12 好叫世人知道你大能的作為，並你國度威嚴的榮耀。**耶穌告訴我們，基督徒是世上的鹽和光。我們以行動反映神的憐憫、慈愛和恩典。每當你在午餐謝飯時，你會引起人們的注意。另外，你的同學或同事從閒聊中知道你周末去教堂。他們會問你信些什麼，你怎麼知道神是真實的。你可以談論神在聖經和你生活中的作為。每個基督徒都有一個獨特的故事，稱為得救見證。當你分享個人見證時加上一些簡單的經文 (如約翰福音 3:16) 會很有幫助。然後你解釋這些經文的意思以及它們如何影響你的生活。人們便意識到神是真實存在的，而不只是一個概念。生命之所以有意義，是因為神對我們有一個目的。我們不應該只關心這個世界，因為有永恆。耶穌希望人們認識祂並與祂建立永遠的關係。

## 結論 CONCLUSION

神先來愛我們，因此我們也應該愛祂。我們可以通過討主的喜悅、頌讚祂的聖名和傳揚祂的作為來愛神。在某種程度上，對人的愛和對神的愛很相似。電影《半世紀的諾言》講述了尹德秀對父親的愛。在 1950 年全家從朝鮮逃出來之時，尹德秀還不到 10 歲。父親交給他照顧小妹妹的重任。很可惜，兄妹二人在人群中分散了。父親回去找他的女兒。他對德秀說：「如果我回不來，那你就是一家之主。你必須把家庭放在首位。」一家人搬進了一個開小雜貨店的阿姨家。尹德秀打零工養家糊口。他犧牲了上學的機會，讓他的兩個弟妹可以上大學。阿姨去世後，家人買下她的店鋪。一段時間後，韓國一些電視台發起了讓一些在戰爭中失散的家人團聚的行動。在巧合的情況下，尹德秀找到了他的妹妹，原來她被一個美國家庭領養了。全家人都歡呼雀躍。在電影的最後一幕，早已退休的德秀告訴太太他一直拒絕賣店的原因。他爸爸告訴他，如果他回來，他會去商店找他們。這個時候，他爸肯定早就沒在了。尹德秀以遵守承諾，愛他那位看不見的父親。今天，我們當然可以愛一位看不見的神。我們通過在生活中尊崇祂並向別人講述祂來愛祂。