

## **DO YOU LOVE JESUS?**

Do you love Jesus? This is the ultimate issue!

It is easy to say “I believe in Jesus”. The reality is that MULTITUDES of people say they believe in Jesus when in reality they merely believe about Him – like the demons do (cf. Ja. 2:19). There are those who say they know Him, but their lives of chronic disobedience show them to be LIARS (cf. 1 Jn. 2:3-4). And John is clear that all such LIARS will have their part in the lake of fire (cf. Rev. 21:8). There are genuine believers and then there are LIARS! And the thing about LIARS is that they don’t tell the truth. They LIE! They say they believe in Jesus, but it’s not true.

Many people have a Jesus of their own making. They believe in Jesus, but he does not resemble the Jesus of Scripture. Cultists believe in Jesus, but invariably, he is ANOTHER Jesus (cf. 2 Cor. 11:4). The true Jesus of Scripture is Savior, and He is Lord God Almighty. One cannot be saved without believing both of these truths. As Savior, Jesus died on the cross for all our sins, with His dying words being “***It is finished!***” (Jn. 19:30). As Lord over all He arose three days later with His resurrection declaring Him to be the Son of God with power (cf. Rom. 1:4).

### **1 John 4:15 (NKJV)**

**15** Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

To believe in the resurrected Christ is to believe in Him as Lord (cf. Rom. 10:9-13).

We are not saved by loving Jesus, but if we truly know Jesus, we will love Him. John expressly says, “***We love Him because He first loved us.***” (1 Jn. 4:19). All true believers have come to Jesus for salvation. They come to Him because, by grace, they have seen the reality of their depravity and their lostness in sin! No one is ever saved without first seeing the reality of their sin! One wouldn’t need a Savior apart from the problem of sin! But having seen the HELLISH problem of our sin and felt the conviction of the Holy Spirit, by grace we have come to Jesus and embraced Him as our glorious Savior! Hence, we LOVE Him. He is our salvation! He is our Life! He is our everything! Those who are FORGIVEN love accordingly (cf. Lk. 7:47-50). Only those who truly realize they are forgiven LOVE Jesus! We see GRACE and we realize our debt of GRATITUDE!

There is much evidence of true salvation, but right at the top is a SINCERE LOVE for Jesus.

**1 Corinthians 16:22 (NKJV)**

**22** If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come!

**Ephesians 6:24 (NKJV)**

**24** Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

The affections of the heart tell on a person. It's not that true believers never fail. They do, but when they do they characteristically hate it (cf. Rom. 7:18-22). True believers characteristically love Jesus and hate sin. That is why Paul in 1 Corinthians 8:3 says, "If anyone loves God, this one is known by Him." The fruit of true faith is LOVE, first to God and then towards fellow believers (cf. 1 Jn. 3:14).