**Thinking and Feeling Like God, Part 2**

1Cor.2:16, *“For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct Him? But* ***we have the mind of Christ.”***  In context (vv.6-16), Paul refers to the *revelation of the thoughts of God* by the *Holy Spirit* to those *inspired* by Him. To them Jesus said, *“No longer do I call you slaves; for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.”* Surely such includes not only *what* God thinks, but how He *feels* about

With this title I don’t mean to imply that we should (or do!) *think* and *feel* that we ARE God, but that we ought to *see things* and *reason* aboutas He does, as well as to *be moved emotionally* by the same things and in the same directions as He is. In the previous lesson, we looked at Prov.6:16-19 where there is a list of seven things that the Lord ***hates****-* things that are an *“abomination”* (*toebah* {to-ay-BAW}- disgusting, loathsome, detestable, abhorrent, repulsive, repugnant) to Him, as well as a couple of others (*divorce* and *homosexuality*).

But in this lesson we’re going to *flip the switch* over to the “positive” side to consider some things that God *loves* and *commends.* After all, if we’re going to *think, feel,* and therefore *see* things as God does, we must not only *hate what He hates,* but also *love what He loves.*

First of all, and somewhat obviously, if God *hates* those things from Prov.6 (and He surely does), then it probably follows that He *loves* their opposites:

* Hates *haughty eyes* but loves *humility,* Jas.4:6; 1Pet.5:5
* Hates *lying tongues* but loves *truth telling/tellers,* Prov.12:22:
* Hates *hearts that devise evil plans* but loves those *that consider how to stimulate others to love and good deeds,* Heb.10:24;
* Hates *feet that run rapidly to evil* but loves *feet that bring glad tidings,* Rom.10:15;
* Hates *false witnesses that utter lies* but loves *witnesses of/to the truth,* Prov.25:11-13; and,
* Hates *those who spread strife among brethren* but loves *those who make peace and spread unity,* Prov.12:20; Matt.5:9; Heb.12:14; Eph.4:1-3.

As we did in the previous lesson with regard to the things God despises, let us consider some other things (beside the opposites listed about from Proverbs) that He *loves* and *appreciates:*

1. **Godly Marriage- that is, marriage that respects its divine *origin* and *arrangement*, Gen.2:18-25.** There is no doubt or argument that God expects Adam and Eve to *“be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth,”* Gen.1:28. But it is a mistake to say that God’s purpose for the institution of marriage was *procreation.*  Otherwise, once the earth was *“filled,”* then marriage would no longer have or serve a purpose. Instead, we ought to understand that divinely ordained and appointed marriage was for 1) the *benefit of man,* Gen.2:18; and, 2) the *betterment of society* and *civilization,* Gen.2:24. Think about it: How many *societal problems* have their origins in “broken” homes? Why are these homes “broken”? Isn’t it because they do not possess the components of “home” that God intended? We need to not only *understand* and *see* that God’s way is best, we need to *love* His way above all others!
2. **Truth-Tellers unwilling to obfuscate, distort, or defer (or to seek to make it *relative* or *subjective*).** John the Baptist was unwilling to compromise the truth of God’s laws regarding marriage (and divorce) just because Herod (the king) was in violation of them, Matt.14:3-4. And yet listen carefully to how Jesus described John in Matt.11:7-14! To *think, feel,* and *see* things as God does, we need to *think, feel,* and *see* truth-tellers and proclaimers of His word as He does!
3. **Compassion over sacrifice, Matt.9:10-13.** The Pharisees wanted to (and did, in essence) *condemn* Jesus because He *“ate with tax-gatherers and sinners”*- those whom they considered *unworthy* of His association or salvation. But Jesus clearly understood His own mission, v.12; as well as what the Pharisees did not *see-* that *God desires compassion* (to salvation- the purpose of Jesus, cf. Luke 19:10) rather than *sacrifice* (for sins). It so easy for us to lose sight of the “big picture” sometimes. To become so concerned with “who” is right instead of “what” is right. Instead of worrying “who” was worthy of Jesus’ attention and association, the Pharisees (and “we”) sometimes need to “what” is the right thing to do with regard to those in need of salvation! To *think, feel,* and *see* things as God does, we must *think, feel,* and *see* “sinners” as He does!
4. Cheerful giver, 2Cor.9:7; 8:1-5. Don’t *mock* him, don’t *despise* him, and don’t *begrudge* him. *Emulate* him, 2Cor.8:1-8! Ananias and Sapphira failed in this regard, cf. Acts 4:36 – 5:10.

**Conclusions**

If we are going be in or claim fellowship with God *here,* or expect to be with Him *hereafter,* then we had better *think, feel,* and *see* things as He does! We need to be *hate* by what He *hates,* and we need to *love* what He *loves.*

And that includes one more thing that He *loves….* He *loves* **you,** John 3:16; Rom.5:8!