

Subject: How Do I Know I Actually Love God?
From: "St. Francis Episcopal Church" <vicar@stfrancisva.org>
Sent: 12/16/2015 8:13:05 PM
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S Francis



December 16, 2015

How Do I Actually Know I Love God?

*The earth, O Lord,
is full of your steadfast love;
teach me your statutes.
Psalm 119:64*

Some Advent Practicalities

Advent is a time of waiting on God, of trusting in the presence and promises of God. It is a time of preparing to receive more of Jesus than ever before in your life, and the life of your fellowship and church. It is a very rich time in the Christian year. While most of those activities are somewhat passive, there are some very active things for us during Advent as well. Part of waiting on God is serving God, like a waiter in a restaurant. To wait is, often, to serve. When you find yourself wanting to serve God, wanting to know the ways and statutes of God you can be very sure that you love God. Only a heart that loves God will want to serve him and walk in his ways.

Serving Steps

Most of the time serving God is serving other people. Loving others is deeply connected with loving God (see I John 4:20). It is important to serve others as if we were serving God directly. You might help someone in need by providing for them. Is that, however, how you would serve God? Wouldn't you want more of God's presence, mercy, character and love to come forward while you are serving Him? What if you approached serving others that way? What if you helped a hungry person by providing food, for example, and then went further to see what their particular gifts or abilities were? What if you went further and served that person by helping to make an environment in which their gifts and abilities could come forward and shine? Wouldn't both of you see more of Jesus than you have ever seen before? Wouldn't that be an incredible way to observe Advent? What if the discipline of doing what it takes to bring out the best gifts and abilities of people was the lifestyle we all adopted? Can you picture a world like that? I suspect God is transforming us to serve Him in that very way.

Coming Attractions

Sunday, December 20, 2015 worship at 10:00am with liturgical dance from the Aspire Dance Company

Thursday, December 24, 2015 worship at 6:15pm

Friday, December 25, 2015 worship at 9:00am

Please bring nonperishable food to worship to be given to the Food Pantry of the Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services.



***Celebrating the Birth of Christ
at St. Francis Episcopal Church***

Sunday, December 20, 2015

Worship at 10:00am

Liturgical dance with Aspire Dance Academy

Thursday, December 24, 2015

Candlelight service 6:15pm

Friday, December 25, 2015

Communion at 9:00am

Sunday, December 27, 2015

Worship at 10:00am

Sunday, January 3, 2015

Worship at 10:00am

All services held at 1484 Hockett Rd; Manakin Sabot, VA 23113

stfrancisva.org; info@stfrancisva.org; 804-784-6116

Our Missional Communities

The Parke will meet for pot luck and worship on January 3, 2016 at the home of Richard and Hedy Walker at 5:30pm. Contact Richard at richardandhedy@yahoo.com

- Color Me Friends will meet on January 6, 2016 at 6:30pm. Contact Carol Maher at carolsdream@gmail.com

-Caregivers' Support Group will meet on January 13 at 7:00pm at the home of Hedy Walker. contact Hedy at richardandhedy@yahoo.com

-Theology on Tap will meet on January 13 at 6:30pm. Contact Richard Walker at richardandhedy@yahoo.com

Symphony will meet at Symphony Assisted Living on January 24, 2016 at 9:00am. Contact Bobbie Leviness at bobbiedrew@yahoo.com

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For Sun Trust Bank, Tammy Zimmer, manager, that many families and businesses would strengthen their financial situations as they are being served by this branch.

Diocese of Virginia

For the clergy and people of Creator, Mechanicsville; Emmanuel, Rapidan; Fork Church, Doswell; St. Martin's, Doswell; Immanuel, Old Church; Piedmont, Madison that they would continually walk in the power of the holy Spirit.

Metropolitan Richmond

For the care and protection of infants, children, and youth; and for the intimate knowledge that each one is a beloved child of God.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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