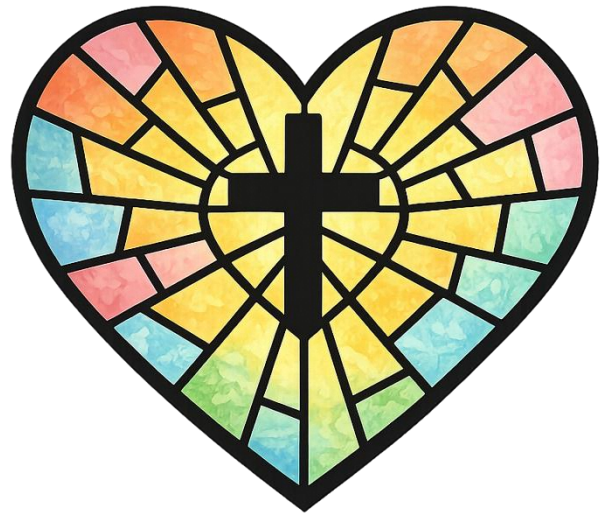


What It Means to Love God

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So, I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

PSALM 63:1-2

Only God will satisfy a heart like David's. And David was a man after God's own heart. That's the way we were created to be.



This is the essence of what it means to love God: to be satisfied in him. In him — not just his gifts, but God himself, as the glorious person that he is!

Loving God will include *obeying* all his commands; it will include *believing* all his word; it will include *thanking* him for all his gifts. But all that is overflow. The essence of loving God is admiring and *enjoying* all he is. And it is this enjoyment of God that makes all of our other responses truly glorifying to him.

We all know this intuitively as well as from Scripture. Do we feel most honored by the love of those who serve us from the constraints of duty, or from the delights of fellowship?

My wife is most honored when I say, “It makes me happy to spend time with you.” My happiness is the echo of her excellence. And so it is with God. He is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him.

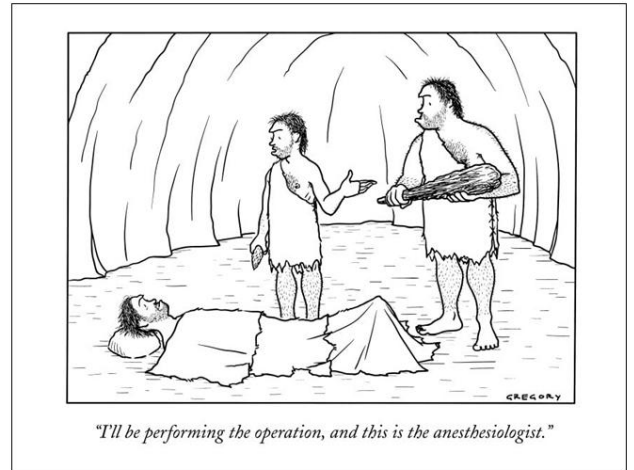
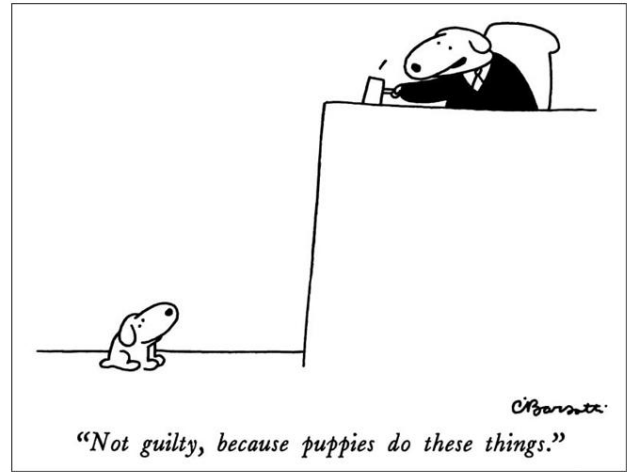
None of us has arrived at perfect satisfaction in God. I grieve often over the murmuring of my heart when I lose some earthly comfort or convenience. But I have tasted that the Lord is good. By God's grace I now know the fountain of everlasting joy.

And so I love to spend my days luring people into joy until they say with me, “One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple” (Psalm 27:4).

God Loves

L K X K G E B D Q F R O O V E R C O M E R M E E
 N J A A K J Y G N I K N B R E H T A F W L V V T
 B S B V M N I T S G I Y L U F H T I A F M M I Q
 Z L T W H E S I A R P F O Y H T R O W N O S T T
 T R E R L P O W E R F U L S U O E T H G I R C U
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 V H G T S N Z I V P I C O M P A S S I O N A T E
 N S B Y A E G V L X N N C O M F O R T E R W O M
 Z O D L M E D T J N R E V E R L A S T I N G R T
 G P S O R T R L H B A C H R I S T V J F Y R P U
 U E V H D P V C V Z F O R E V E R Q W S E M F X
 X R F O J X J G K F W A L M I G H T Y D R Q N D
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 R E O B R L U F I C R E M N V D L E G I J H L O
 T C Y R N E J V J J S W P B C I M I T N E M F L
 Q T Y Y H L F D D G H F U M H E C N F R S D F Y
 R E V I G R O F R J I P Y T R L E T W K U A V S
 H I B V Q W F G O O P P H R E I J V O J S X R P
 W E G N I R A C L Y E N U T T Y X P M R Z S Y I
 B O A O E M M Q Q G D W X A G K E H S W I W J R
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|---------------|------------|----------------|-------------|------------------|
| merciful | blessed | redeemer | comforter | peace |
| strength | refuge | worshiped | victorious | healer |
| compassionate | protective | powerful | holy | righteous |
| perfect | jesus | loving | caring | patient |
| forever | promises | faithful | trinity | holy spirit |
| son | christ | won the battle | overcomer | worthy of praise |
| grace | savior | lord | father | king |
| forgiver | creator | almighty | everlasting | |



Faithful Steps,
 MEANINGFUL
 PROGRESS