

Torrey Conference 1996 Relationship with God - The Lover

Part 1

By David Currie

Speaker 1: Let's thank Dave for being here, shall we?

David Currie: And, well, if a guy is in crank to speak after that, I'm not sure what. Just a few what I'd call housekeeping details. One is last night at the the men's only session, we ran out of handouts. And so gentlemen and anyone else who'd like to pick one up who wasn't there last night. There are more copies available at the back of 16 suggestions with scripture related of how to conquer the less monster.

And so that's at the back, I imagine, over towards the left side as you go back there, because that's where the tapes are that I want to talk about for a bit as well. You understand have heard me speak three, four or five times. Depending on where you've been in these sessions. You'll notice that I try to speak very clear about issues I don't beat around the bush. You notice that I try to be very biblical. I like to include God's word as much as I can.

And I try to relate the issues that your generation faces in a way that you can understand. That's been my passion and my desire as I communicate to college students the tape series. I have all been communicated to three to five hundred college students at a time, so they're all done in front of a live setting. There's a lot more energy than just 50 people or so, if you know what I mean. And I just wanted to review some of the the issues that are available.

It's fun for me because sometimes people come up to me and ask a question and and really needs some encouragement and counseling along a certain direction. And like, for instance, even in the question and answer time the other night when the evening all those questions that were were asked of me, I take back and get typed out and put them on my master list of questions that college students are asking. Then I developed talks along those lines for my own college students back in Canada.

And I have them as resources when it goes when someone says, well, listen, should I date an unbeliever or not or how should I break up with this person? What in a way that honors God, I've got talks on why not date an unbeliever and talk on how to break up with class. That's all in a series of somebody saying, I don't need that. I don't want that Dave. I want to stay together. OK, but I'm looking for someone. I got to pay for that too. OK, it's called turning the marital corner.

OK, but just to list some of them that are available, understanding spring fever is the one about dating and includes the one on how to break up with class and how to be a good date for summer. You need a lot of help. There's three different series available. Unfortunately, one is sold already, but the three series are the gift of sex or the trap of sex. Looking at three issues the purposes of sexuality and the first track, the perversion, how Satan takes sexuality and messes it up force.

And thirdly, private issues of sexuality that basically deal really openly and explicitly with. Every question that would ever come up this week, I have the series Running the Sexual Gantlet Here, which to talk to you heard on Wednesday night was kind of joining of two of those talks.

And that's available as well. The issue on sexuality that was sold out was the one issues that men face and that covers similar talk, conking the monster that did last night pornographic quicksand and how to keep from having an affair.

And if there's men here who would still like a copy, those there's also a little forms you can fill out. Just leave them with me and I'll send the tape to you or the tapes to you. Matter of fact, if there's an individual tape that you'd like, you can request it on there. And I can send it to you for five dollars and I'll pay for the postage end of it. But I really have done this to make it available to help encourage you.

There's a great series I've done on forgiveness, understanding God's forgiveness, learning how to forgive other people, learning to forgive yourself and think about that if you have issues of forgiveness in your life. I have what I call a series on secrets to the Christian life. My best thoughts on how to keep growing in the Lord. They're there as well. And so after this session, before Ray comes, you'd have an opportunity to look once more before I pack up what's left and go home.

I'll be having a slip up during Ray's session to catch my plane. That leaves us to on one. And so so there is one thing I neglected to do, because in a lot of ways, I kind of feel that we're one big family anyway. But I don't like making it to Canada US distinction. But are there any Canadians here yet? Less. Less than bless you, my children. You get double portion of my blessing. I'm the Pope from Canada.

Yes, I know.

The last thing I'd like to just suggest is I think you as a college student body for way that you bravely listened to God through me. I could tell time and time again that it was beyond politeness that you were really wanted to hear from God and those that were praying beforehand and those that were praying in Canada still are this morning. God has been answering their prayers because he's taken your hearts and softened them. He's shown some of you who are drifting.

He's challenged some of you in the area of sexuality that you never thought was possible to have someone challenge you that way. And yet God's plan and God's challenge you towards purity and holiness this morning is we talk about this last issue.

What does it mean to love God? I pray that that it would become clearer than ever before that you're on the Lord's side and you love him. So, yeah, in the third part of this relational series relationship with God, we talked about the seeker, we talked about the drifter, and now we talk about the lover. A little survey here this morning and little survey cells.

Look, first of all, how many of you have a particular food that you just crave? I want you to stand if you have a food that you crave, you describe it as this. I have to have this. OK, good. The rest of you are normal, balanced people stay seated, but they're mostly static. Now, on the count of three, I want you to say the food item that to you is the craving. Oh, extraordinaire. OK, one, two, three. Thank you. Thank you. Sit down. Know we're not done. I just gave you

something to talk about because you don't know this, but I have a I have an audio photographic mind and I did a complete survey on the words that came my way at that particular moment.

And I have a complete categorization of all the different things. And and fourteen point seven percent of you said chocolate, you know. Oh, yeah, but, you know, there's a growing trend as you move through college years to buy coffee in the morning. It's the Christian drug of choice.

Listen, after Janis shared what she shared about the difficulties with her family and, you know, I almost leaned to Ron, said, you know, God spoken already, I want to speak today. Good God uses the body to encourage one another in Janis revisiting. God bless you. I just I was blessed by your fearless desire to love people who hurt you.

And I wish I could take that little vignette into my counseling office, encourage people who, like you, have been through hell at home because God Spirit is upon you, my sister. And you encouraged me.

But in spite of the difficulty we just heard, some of you have a good relationship with mom and dad and you say, I love my dad or I love my mom. Stand out. If you have a good relationship with your mom and dad. Come on, stand up. Come on. OK, good. Now that means just hope for the next generation because we have a few models. Now, I want you to I know it's hard to pick, but I want you to say mom or dad on the count of three. OK, all right. You keep talking, OK? You got to say one or the other. OK, ok. One, three. Oh man. That was clear. Good. Thanks very much.

Alec, Alec, Tristian. Can you fix this? Goodlooking.

OK, we've got a couple more questions, am I got a pet? I have a golden retriever named Maggie and Maggie is pregnant. She has a suitor named Ze'evi and we've had some real live sex education in our backyard. I'll tell you. So my kids have been there at the birth. Matter of fact, my 12 year old daughter, Keltie, her name is. She's planted by God's direction. We feel she loves the idea about maybe being a veterinarian one day. So the last last litter Maggie had, Keltie delivered the last seven pups by herself. That's awesome. How many of you have a pet? Come on. You love your pet. Come on, stand up. OK, and I want you to say dog, cat, squirrel, chipmunk, alligator, whatever your pet is, OK? One, two, three.

Oh oh I have this book. I have to confess this is a public confession time. I have this book called One Hundred and One Uses for a Dead Cat. Oh, dear, I'm letting it all hang out now, brother. Yeah, I just lost half the crowd who love their cats. Oh, dear.

My college program Wednesday nights, we do what I call junk at the front end, and we had a we marked out a therapy session I preached recently. You need to know that Fraser Valley, where I live, Vancouver, an hour out along the Fraser River, is one of the most esteemed places to live in the world. Thank you. There's two of us there.

But again, for the fifth year in a row, Canada is deemed by the United Nations as being the most advantageous country to live in. Canada is seen as the most popular place people would choose to live if they could choose to live in a new country within Canada. People would choose to live

in the Fraser Valley where I live. And I live with college students who don't realize how blessed they are in the world system, where the world would love to come and live in Canada and people in Canada would love to come and live in the Fraser Valley.

They don't understand how affluent, how blessed they really are. That's why I love taking college students to Brazil along the Amazon, to Haiti to to Mexico, to see the poverty in the world, to get a real picture of what life is all about. And just two weeks ago, I preached that on Wednesday night, called fat cats in the Fraser Valley, learning to be content with what you have. And because of the evening talk of fat cats, we had a little mock at the front.

And I have to tell you, this story is funny. We pretended that one of our executive staff was the therapist doing a group session in front of the crowd that would help the people in this self-help group get over their hurdles. It was cat killers, anonymous, and and they came in with bags over their heads. Just, you know, this this and they they were confessing their true stories of how they had either accidentally or inadvertently ended the life of a cat.

And and it was it was really quite funny, something that you see on Saturday Night Live, I suppose. But it was really quite a choice. Yes. I won't tell you the stories, but I'll tell you all you dog lovers can come and ask me later, and I'll tell you, everyone did anyway. But, you know, we talk about I love this food, you know, we talk about how I love the sport. I love this game. You know, we talk about how I I love my my dog, Maggie. She's just a great dog. I said things like, I love my mom, I love my dad, I love my wife, I love my kids. And when we say these things, we have a pretty clear picture of what that means.

When I say I love God, what comes to mind? Because that's what we have to come to grips with. You see, if I say I love my dog, you you would know that I have a good relationship with my dog such that she's treated with respect. She's fed well. She has this wonderful little dog house that's that's insulated. It has a vapor barrier. It even has a plug in in the back that I have a light bulb. But if it gets too cold, I plug it in a plug and it heats this through a heat lamp. Inside, she's spoiled. She's treated with respect. I've never once slapped her in the face, always had to treat it like she was disobedient, but she would never be slapped in the face. This is my dog.

But you have a concept of what it means to be right if you're loved as an animal. What does it mean? You know, if I love God, if I say I love my wife, you have a concept of what that means. You say you treated with respect. You take no surprises to her like I'm going to today. She's picking me up at the airport at four o'clock and I look forward to the reunion.

We've only been apart three days and I've talked to her, two of them. And you can start to sense there's something real about the twenty two and a half years that we've been married. But you know what it means when I say I love my wife, there be proper treatment. There'd be a sense of sensitivity, a sense of respect, a sense of kind, actions towards her. When I ask you, what does it mean to love God?

Wow. We don't quite have a clear picture. And my goal today and the time the remains is to try to explain to you as best I can what it means to love God, that you forever have a little little benchmark, a little watershed, as it were. This is what it means to love God. I remember now and and I can always ask myself what it means to love God. And you know what it is it going to be

with Dave Currie, things I'll be quoting Jesus and some of the apostles because Jesus and what it meant to love God.

Moses. Also in Deuteronomy, Chapter six talked about the importance of loving God.

Sometimes we we discredit the Old Testament system that was just a system of dos and don'ts and sacrifices. It didn't have any heart in it. And you understand, of course, says Love the Lord, your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. It's interesting that comes from Deuteronomy, Chapter six. And then it goes on to there. And these commandments that I give you today, let them be upon your heart. It wasn't just the thing. I'm going to do this to be obedient. Go and do this. Quit being a bad nation. Let me love the Lord, your God with all your heart. And then these commandments. Let them be on your heart. Let them be issues that come from a desire to serve, a desire to love me.

Even in the Old Testament, obedience was born out of love. In Matthew chapter twenty to thirty seven to forty. This is where Jesus quoted that Old Testament passage to Deuteronomy when he was asked the question. What are the greatest commandments and the he said, well, the greatest commandment is this, and they, of course, referring to the Ten Commandments that he pulled away from the Ten Commandments. He said, listen, you need to love the Lord, your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.

And he said the second commandment is like into it, which means this is this is critical. And it follows right off from 'neath, the first one. He says, you love your neighbor as you love and respect yourself. Jesus said the greatest command is loving God. I suppose if Old Testament and

New Testament talks about the importance of loving God, then at some point we've got to not only understand ourselves, but friends. You and I have a responsibility to share with people. What does it mean to love God? We have to give them a living example of what it means to love God. But we also articulate to other people this is what it means to love God.

I love hockey and people can understand what that means. I'm in my 17th year of coaching hockey. I'm still playing hockey in the league myself three times a week. I'd like to be on the ice five times a week with different organizations. And I like Dave, who shared about his rugby team. I'll be flying back in tonight. I'll be in a dressing room that is filled with people who don't know Jesus. Matter of fact, they bring in the case of beer for afterwards and they swear like a blue streak.

And I'm on this team and I thank God that he's allowing me to play in this team. It's our third game together tonight. I'm just praying that God allow me to be a light in this place. They've already picked up that I don't drink. And because most guys, by the time we're done changing, have already had their second beer. And they say, oh, listen, by the way, if you want me, bring your Coke or whatever, I said, I'd be just great. Thanks. No problem. Thanks. I'll be great.

So they bring, you know, Coke and with the beer cooler now for me and I know even though I haven't said anything about it, I know they all know, you know, I think it's a priest. As you know, they kind of reflected, depending what it is there from somebody. No, no, he's not one of them. He's one of those ministers. But what does it mean to love God? People understand what it

means. When I say I love hockey, the implications are going to get very clear. I hope. Please turn with me to John, Chapter 14. In answer to the question, what does it mean to love God?

I'll let Jesus speak for himself. John, Chapter 14, rather sorry, John, Chapter 14, 15. They're going to slide down to verse twenty one and following Jesus words, he's answered the question, what does it mean to love God? If you love me, you will obey what I command twenty one. Whoever has my commands and obeys them. He's the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my father and I too will love him and sold myself to him. Oh, when I read that last night again, I think I should just preach on that sometime. If you love God and obey his commands, he will show himself to you. Twenty three, it's such a profound verse when I read it, that I wrote a song about it myself and if anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching, my father will love him and will come to him and make we will come to him and make our home with him. He does not love me, will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own. They belong to the father who sent me these reliable things. Jesus have said, if you don't believe me, is the really come from the father.

It's the issue of if you love me, obey me. If you love your baby, what does that mean? There's a sense to which is it said in one of the earlier verses above, I guess, would be about a verse twenty one, whoever has my commands and obeys them. There's a two point aspect here of what it means to love God to has his commands means you need to know them to understand what God has to say. I have a little confession to make. Sometimes when I speak around, I'm in situations that requires me once, maybe on the weekend to actually throw on a suit or something, and I

check to see what the format as far as dress was. You really need to be a suit and tie and all and I came in this comfort zone at their blessing.

Occasionally, I am on a weekend speaking. And it's the Sunday morning at a church service and I'm in a suit or one of my coordinates. And my wife has this wonderful way of reminding me that we have something special going. And she writes notes and sticks them in pockets. And occasionally I'm getting ready to speak, and all of a sudden I'll find another note and I'm going to read it and it kind of makes me go flush a little bit like, what if someone behind me is reading this, you know, and they just kind of slip it back in and say, what a brat. But, boy, do I love you.

And you know what? I we have my wife and I if you went down to our basement in our storage room, there's a box downstairs, cardboard box, a little bigger than a shoe box, and it's filled with letters from our dating days. Now, I know that by now all the paper is yellow. And, you know, I mean, I'm so old and all that.

But on the side, in this box, in felt pen and big writing across the side, it's called our box and it has all the little trinkets that I gave her and all the little lovely notes she wrote me and I wrote her when we were apart and all the little booths stuff. Right. And I remember the one time that we were separated for a summer while I was ministering in New York, this is even before we're married, I was working at a camp down there. And this was tough because we had been dating a couple of years and I was in love again. And and we would be writing very, very regularly. But I remember when I would get a letter from her and she quite often would put some of her perfume on the letter and occasionally she'd do a lip print on the letter. And I want you to know

something that when I got that letter from my girlfriend, I'll get to it later. It was. I read it and then when the printing was boring, I pulled it out and read it again.

I'd go like this. I put it back together, fold it up, look at the back of the envelope, say, yeah, I open up again and read it again, and then at night I have my devotions. Then before I'd pray, I'd open it up and read it again. And I still have those letters. And if I read them today, I want you to know I would still feel the same. You know why? Because what she wrote to me I cherished because I knew from whom they came.

Jesus wrote you a love letter. Dear Dave, love Jesus. You want to get to know God? You want to love him? He sent you a love letter. A Bible that is falling apart belongs to someone who isn't. Read your Bible, read your Bible, were ultimately people of a book, aren't we, because this becomes the standard, it's the most interesting thing.

I just spoke in May in Ireland and I'm speaking here in Los Angeles now, and I'll speak across Canada, different places. And it's interesting because no matter where I go, I open the book and I preach God's word. And God's people all over the world respond the same way because it's God and it's his world where people have a book. This is his love letter to us. If you love God, you will love his love letter. It's on your heart.

You know what, you can take away my Bible and put me in prison and I can quote scripture for an awful long time. I would start writing about scripture and stick it on the walls of myself. Matter of fact, my kids and I, as we travel, we play this game. They read any verse in any

chapter, the Bible. And I have to tell them what verse it is that starts out by getting the right book. All right. Great book, Dad.

OK, what chapter was that? Just read it again. Yeah, that it's chapter 17. You write that with. Do you understand? She knows me, she understands me, she knows the agenda, and if you know Jesus and understand him, what he wants from people and what his agenda is, you start anticipating what God would want you to do before you would ask. Before he even asks, rather. All I've got is the did you know as word live his word. Give your Bible, please turn over to first, John. Can bless his heart, gave us a full package this morning, and according to the schedule, my time is up. But my dear brother said I could finish a little longer, but I'll try not to make it too much longer.

But listen, first, John, chapter 4. If you did a little study at first, John, chapter four, verse seven to chapter five, four, three or so, you'd realize that love appears approximately 15 to 20 times. This is a quick estimate. As I glanced at the passage, I lied. It's twenty to twenty five times. I did a quick count because I have every time the word love highlighted in my Bible. But listen, you slide down to verse 19.

We love because he first loved us. Anyone who says I love God, I do see if if I asked you, please stand up. Don't do this. Don't do this. If I asked you stand up. If you love God, we'd have ok. Yeah, I love God. And you of course have your version of what you think love God is right. But make sure your version matches the words version because I'd like to be best I have God tell us what it means to love God. Love me too. OK, I mean a ok.

If anyone says I love God yet hates his brother, he is a liar, he's a liar. But what the fact that he loves God for anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, he cannot love God who has not seen and he has given us this command. Whoever loves God must also love his brother. So there's now another connection. There's a connection here between loving God and loving people, just like there was a loving God and obeying God before long.

A little father. You can see evidence of this again. Verse, chapter five, verse one. Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God and everyone who loves the father loves this child as well. This is how we know we love the children of God by loving God and carry out his commands. Now, check this out. This is love for God. Going to be clear, OK? Look, this is love for God, Colin to obey his commands. This is love to God that you love people around you. Jesus said by this man, know that you're my disciples, that you really love me, that you love one another.

It's the mark of a Christian. Somehow God's love to me requires that I embody love. When I preach about this at length, I talk about a ten foot circle. Now most of the time our wingspan is the same distance is our height. So I'm six feet tall, so my hands are six feet apart right now. If you could imagine adding two feet on each side, two of my hands and it would be now a ten foot diameter.

Do you see, I want you to imagine that whoever comes within your ten foot circle needs to be and deserve to be loved in Jesus name. Whoever comes within your ten foot circle needs to be and deserves to be loved in Jesus name. Because when it says love your neighbor, you know who

the neighbor is. It's the person nearest you who needs you. Don't complicated. Well, who was my neighbor? And he's trying to make it complicated. And Jesus basically said the person who is nearest you that needs you, you love them, could be someone in your dorm that's hurting bad right now that needs you. You need to understand, if God gave us the grace to notice who comes within a 10 foot circle each day and we touched and cared for and listened to and loved and took time for those people within our ten foot circle, we'd be a community that's so radically demonstrated by love, it would just make people's heads spin.

How do you know you love God? I think to me it means I am sensitive to God's will as demonstrated his word. Some of you who maybe are going to be taking some courses in administration and you might be getting a business administration degree here are those that are going to move into church leadership and know about working relationships in settings like that. You know that one of the good suggestions of an underling in an employer employee or in a he's my supervisor relationship.

I am the underling, as it were. In other words, my situation in my church where there is a senior pastor and I'm one of the executive associates. If you've done any work in this area, you know that it's a very good principle to work hard to make your boss look good. If I can make my boss's job easier, there will be always room for me in that place of ministry. But if I create stress and rivalry, always competing, always trying provincialism, where this is my thing, that's your thing. If I and you and I need to be involved in life to make Jesus look good and to make Jesus job a lot easier sensitive to his will, what would you want me to do?

The same book of First John, Chapter two four six. It says this those who claim to live in him. And if I asked you the course, the tease this morning was you or the truly faithful because you're here on the weekends or the Friday morning, you didn't even have to swipe your card through your just so hallelujah.

So you're sitting there in the category like. Well, of course I claim to know God. I tend my Biola. I mean, I am a Christian. But you claim to know God first, John says, and to verse six, you must walk as Jesus did. Sensitive to his will, there needs to be if you really have got a desire to please him in the same way that that Val anticipates what needs to get done, knows me well, knows what I have to do, knows my commission in life. And she anticipates and she desires to have things done where I have to come in. And Holly, nice going. I never thought of that. She says, I kind of thought you're a little busy too. So I've looked after it. The last thing that I think will help me explain to you what it means to really love God is what matters most to him, matters most to me. What matters most to him matters most to me.

Do you ever start thinking about what what Jesus came for, Jesus came, his words were to seek and to save those that were lost. And somehow in life, no matter what your commission to be and do, no matter what your vocation is, somehow in life, you better be concerned about the things that matter to him if you really love God. Driving to the airport with my 17 year old son Brock in my little eighty five Jetta, and he's driving away and I was telling him a little story about when we were in Ireland, Scotland, England and me.

And one of my highlights over there was actually driving in Scotland some eight hundreds of thousand kilometers on the wrong side of the road with a car that's steering wheels over on this side of the ship with your left hand. It is a scream and the roads are narrow. And I had a little sporty car and it was just like, oh, my. Was going to put up on the dad. It was awesome. And I remember the first few times I was shifting with the wrong hand and I'd be shoulder checking and looking at my wife.

Oops, wrong way, you know, and it's quite an experience. And I was just talking to him about how because I had my 10 and 12 year old, I'm letting them shift, learning how to shift in my car while I'm driving. OK, and so I said to Brock about this and I said, you know, it's almost as hard as is learning to shift left handed. And this is what he said. He said, well, I can shift left handed left thinking, well, he's never been over there.

I said, What do you mean? I said I said, You mean you cross over and shift? He says, Yeah. And I said, What? And he said, Well, it's with when I'm with Natalie, I don't want to let go of her hand. So I slide my knee up to hold the steering wheel and I shift left and it. And I think the boy is like his father.

You know what, though? I bring this little warm, fun story and at the end to say this, my son is willing to adjust his life for someone he loves. He's willing to adjust his life for someone he loves. Can loving God be any more simple than that, will you say to him, God, I will adjust my life because I love you? I wouldn't know your word. I want to obey your word. I want to be a person who spins your love no matter where I go. I'll even shift left handed if you want me to,

because I'll alter anything to love you. Are you seeking God? Are you drifting from God? I pray that your loving God.

Let's pray together. Father, thank you so much for the student body, for the school, for what it stands for. Thank you for the opportunities here to grow and to consider your word. Thank you for the Tory Bible conference. And I pray, God, that you would have taken these words this day and put them on the platform, the foundation that's been built over the course of these people's lives, to shake down the truth that needs to be planted deep.

And Lord, I pray that there'd be no doubt when people leave. I know what it means to love God. I'm loving him. May our lives be different because we see those words in Jesus name. Amen.
Thank you very much, Carlos.