

# **FIRST PETER**

## **(PART 5)**

### **“DO YOU REALLY LOVE ME?”**

*Presented by*

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These glimpses into the personal life of Peter really do help us understand the man God used to write the book of First Peter.

He was a “down to earth” man with so many characteristics we each one identify with. So by understanding his heart and the lessons he learned, the things he writes will have greater impact.

The next to the last encounter Peter had with Jesus Christ on earth is recorded in John’s gospel. What an encounter it was!

## PETER'S STRUGGLE

- Peter was tempted to **lie** and at times even **gave** way to temptation.
- But Peter was not a "**good liar**" because of his devotion to Christ.
- Peter was also very **quick** to be **sorrowful**.
- His heart was to be very **sensitive** to the Lord Jesus Christ.

## PETER'S LOVE LESSON

### JOHN 21:15-17

**NOTE:** Two words must be understood in this passage.

1. AGAPAO = Love

This refers to **deep**, sacrificial, other-centered love. This love is demonstrated by a **total** commitment to someone.

2. PHILEO = Love or **tender** affection

This refers to a tenderness which is expressed by brothers and sisters when they are acting right. It also means to **kiss** or to be kind enough to wish someone **well**.

## THE CONTEXT

### Verse 15

- The Lord Jesus asks, "Do you love me sacrificially **more** than the things you **own**?"
- Peter answers, "Yes, Lord, I am really **fond** of you."

### Verse 16

- The Lord asks, "**Do you** sacrificially love me?"
- Peter answers, "Yes, Lord, I am really affectionate **to you**."

### Verse 17

- The Lord asks, "Are you **even** fond of me?"
- Peter answers, Yes, I am at **least** fond of you."

## THE LESSON

- Christ **sees** and **knows** the heart of each one of us.
- What we **say** might, or might not, be representative of our heart's **desire**.
- To **follow** Jesus Christ must be an all-consuming passion.
- If followers of Christ are **sincere**, their highest love and devotion are not **shared** with anyone or anything else!
- Peter was **sad** and sorrowful because he realized that he had not been **fully devoted** to the Lord Jesus.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

- If you tell others you love Jesus Christ, what **kind** of love is it?
- Are you **honest** about your love for Christ? Remember, He sees and knows your heart.

## PERSONAL RESPONSE

1. List the “things” in your life that tend to capture your devotion away from Christ.
2. Ask two people this question: Do you see me as a devoted follower of Jesus Christ? Explain.
3. Are you saddened when you think about your sacrifice for the sake of Christ during the past week?

### The Supreme Weapon

Joseph Tson, the evangelical dissident in Communist Romania, was often summoned before government officers who used every tactic to break his faith in Christ. Once, being interrogated, an officer threatened to kill him.

“Sir,” replied Tson, “let me explain how I see this issue. Your supreme weapon is killing. My supreme weapon is dying.

“Here is how it works. You know that my sermons on tape have spread all over the country. If you kill me, those sermons will be sprinkled with my blood. Everyone will know I died for my preaching. And everyone who has a tape will pick it up and say, ‘I’d better listen again to what this man preached, because he really meant it; he sealed it with his life.’

“So, sir, my sermons will speak ten times louder than before. I will actually rejoice in this supreme victory if you kill me.”

The officer sent Tson home.