

**“Crazy Love”**  
**CRAZY LOVE<sup>1</sup> – Chapter 3**  
**MATTHEW 22:37-38**

**THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT**

1. It is difficult to grasp and understand God’s **unconditional, unlimited** love for us (Rom. 8:31-32).
2. God desires truly **exuberant** love and worship from His children (Deut. 6:4-8).
3. Our love for our own children is but a **faint shadow** of God’s great love and hope for His children (Matt. 7:11).

**KEY THOUGHT:** God is worthy of my **utmost trust** more than anyone on earth (Ps. 37:3-5).

**I. CULTIVATING A CRAZY LOVE FOR GOD (DEUT. 6:4-8)**

A. The “First and Greatest Commandment” is to love God with our **whole being** (Matt. 22:37-38).

1. Our quiet time with God is not to be **guilt**-motivated as a **painful** “time out”.
2. God desires your **exuberant** love and **fellowship** (1 John 2:3-6).

B. God **knew** you **intimately** before He formed you and before you were born (Jer. 1:4-5).

1. Your life is not a **random collection** of events (Eph. 1:4; 2:10).
2. God has designed you for a **specific work** (Jer. 1:6-10).
3. God has planned a **partnership** with you and greatly desires that you be **successful** (John 15:8; 1 Cor. 10:13; Eph. 2:10).

**KEY THOUGHT:** God’s mercy and forgiveness are **free** but **costly** gifts that cannot be **earned** (Eph. 2:8-10).

---

<sup>1</sup> Crazy Love, by Francis Chan; Publisher: David C. Cook, © 2008

## II. CONTEMPLATING AN UNBELIEVABLE INHERITANCE (EPH. 1:18)

- A. The greatest comfort we can have is knowing that God treasures us (Eph. 1:3-14).
1. God is sovereign and, thus, has orchestrated ministry, temptation, escape, and spiritual growth (Rom. 8:28).
  2. The reality of being a child of God sets our life goal of godliness and directs all our behavior (1 John 3:2-3).
- B. Is God forcing you to love Him?
1. God's calling, nurturing, and even "threatening" demonstrate His great love for you (Matt. 7:11).
  2. The greatest good on this earth is God, and His goal for you is Himself (John 1:3-5, 14).

**KEY THOUGHT:** Are you in love with God or just His "house" and His stuff?

### CULTIVATING A CRAZY LOVE FOR GOD

- I will celebrate and rejoice in the reality that God treasures me.
- I want to demonstrate my love for God by exuberantly seeking Him!
- I will surrender to the Holy Spirit to partner with God to accomplish His plan through my life.
- I will choose to love God more than His stuff.

**FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERSONAL GROWTH**

**April 11, 2010**

**SUNDAY:** ***God has unconditional, unlimited love for His children (Rom. 8:31-32)!*** It is difficult to grasp and understand that God has unconditional, unlimited love for us. Christians are absolutely secure in their salvation. Every sin we have ever committed is forgiven by the work Jesus did on the cross. The forgiveness is complete. Our response should be devoted love. God desires truly exuberant love and worship from His children (Deut. 6:4-8). Our love for our own children is but a faint shadow of God's great love and hope for His children (Matt. 7:11). Unconditional love is so foreign to our selfish way of thinking and living that we struggle to comprehend how God can extend it to us. Bask in the glory of God and His magnificent love for His children. Praise Him for His holy and pure character. Commit to love and adore Him throughout the day. ***May the reality of God's unconditional love transform how you think of yourself and others!***

**MONDAY:** ***God alone is worthy of our utmost trust (Ps. 37:3-5)!*** Everyone on this earth has the potential to let you down except God. Even if circumstances are not favorable right now, you can trust God. David asked the age-old question in Psalm 37, "Why do the wicked prosper and the godly struggle?" David's opening remarks to mankind are to trust God and live righteously. Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord and trust Him completely. God alone is worthy of our utmost trust! Ask the Lord to help you surrender your heart to the Holy Spirit's leadership and to cultivate a trust of the Lord in every area of your life. ***May your commitment to cultivate a greater trust in the Lord yield peace and comfort in your life amidst whatever circumstances you find yourself!***

**TUESDAY:** ***Our response to God's love is to love Him with our whole being (Matt. 22:37-38)!*** To love God with your heart, soul, and mind is descriptive of every aspect of your life and being. God is a God of absolutes. He loves us with an unconditional, unlimited love. It is not surprising that He seeks for us to respond with the same absolute commitment with our love. Why is it so difficult for us to love God with all that we are? Why do we feel it is reasonable to reserve so much of our lives for ourselves and for our preferences? Our quiet time with God is not to be guilt-motivated as if it were a painful "time out" from all the fun of life. God truly desires your exuberant love and fellowship (1 John 2:3-6). Exuberant love would manifest itself in gracious obedience. Fellowship with God should create the desire to mimic and copy the exact character of God in my life. Ask the Lord to help you identify why you do not love Him with all your heart, soul, and mind? Pray for the strength to begin removing the obstacles that prevent you from loving God as He desires. ***May this next step of desiring to be with God help create a more exuberant love for your God!***

**WEDNESDAY:** ***Your life in Christ is not random (Eph. 1:4; 2:10)!*** God knew you intimately before He formed you and before you were born (Jer. 1:4-5). God's unconditional love for you indicates that your life as His child has meaning and purpose. Your life is not a random collection of events (Eph. 1:4; 2:10). Your life with Him and the gifting He has woven into you means He designed you for specific work for Him (Jer. 1:6-10). In fact, God has planned a partnership with you and greatly desires that you be successful in that partnership (John 15:8;

1 Cor. 10:13; Eph. 2:10). Therefore, the events of your life are not random when you are in partnership with a sovereign God. What are you learning from your current circumstances and your reaction in spite of them? Do you truly trust God in the midst of the partnership in which you live? Pray for the strength and faith to trust God with every area of your life regardless of the circumstances. ***May you learn to walk beside the Lord in the adventure of the life He has planned for you!***

**THURSDAY: *God's mercy and forgiveness is a gift that cannot be earned (Eph. 2:8-10)!***

God's mercy and forgiveness is a free but costly gift that cannot be earned. Good works cannot produce salvation, but they are the fruit of using the divine power given to a child of God. The Christian is the product of the workmanship of the Lord. He is created for accomplishing the work given to Him by the Lord in his spiritual and life partnership. What are the spiritual gifts the Lord has given you? Where are you supposed to be working in the ministry of the church and the kingdom? Realize that there is no excuse to give men because your partnership is with God. Ask the Lord for forgiveness if you have not been diligent in completing your assignment in your partnership. Commit to cultivating the exuberant love that is called for because of the unconditional, unlimited love the Lord has shown you. ***May this epitome light the fire of passion in your heart for living up to the partnership God for which God created you!***

**FRIDAY: *God treasures His children (Eph. 1:3-14)!***

Contemplating the unbelievable inheritance demands that we expand our minds beyond its finite limits (Eph. 1:18). The glory of God's kingdom to which He makes us a part and participant is really beyond our mind's capability. However, the greatest comfort we can have is knowing that God treasures us (Eph. 1:3-14). God is sovereign and, thus, has orchestrated ministry, temptation, escape, and spiritual growth throughout our Christian lives (Rom. 8:28). The reality of being a child of God sets our life goal of godliness and directs all our behavior (1 John 3:2-3). God treasures you, and you should desire to pursue godliness to glorify and please Him. What a wonderful recipe for peace, joy, and comfort! Pray that you will be able to submit to the Holy Spirit and be quiet enough to meditate on being a treasure of God. Ask for the courage to inquire where you have been ungodly. Commit to living under the Spirit's control in that area of your life. ***May the knowledge of your personal value to God further fan the flames of your passion to live up to your partnership with God!***

**SATURDAY: *God's activity in your life demonstrates His love for you (Matt. 7:11)!***

Is God forcing you to love Him by threatening to send you to hell if you do not? Is God a big, cosmic bully? Your Heavenly Father is a loving "parent" that desires to guide His children to make the best and wisest decisions with their lives. Earthly parents will use punishment, or the threat of severe consequences, to direct immature minds away from poor decisions. Your Heavenly Father is the best of parents. God's calling, nurturing, and even "threatening" demonstrates His great love for you (Matt. 7:11). In fact, the greatest good on this earth is God, and His goal for you is Himself (John 1:3-5, 14). The greatest thing about the Christian life is the personal, intimate relationship the believer has with the Lord. Is that what you celebrate as a Christian? Some hedge their bets for eternity and want to be sure they will be in God's majestic heaven. Others greatly desire the blessings of God on earth. Are you in love with God or just His "house" and His stuff? Commit yourself to loving God and living in your partnership with Him. ***May this be a great week of applying biblical truth to your life!***