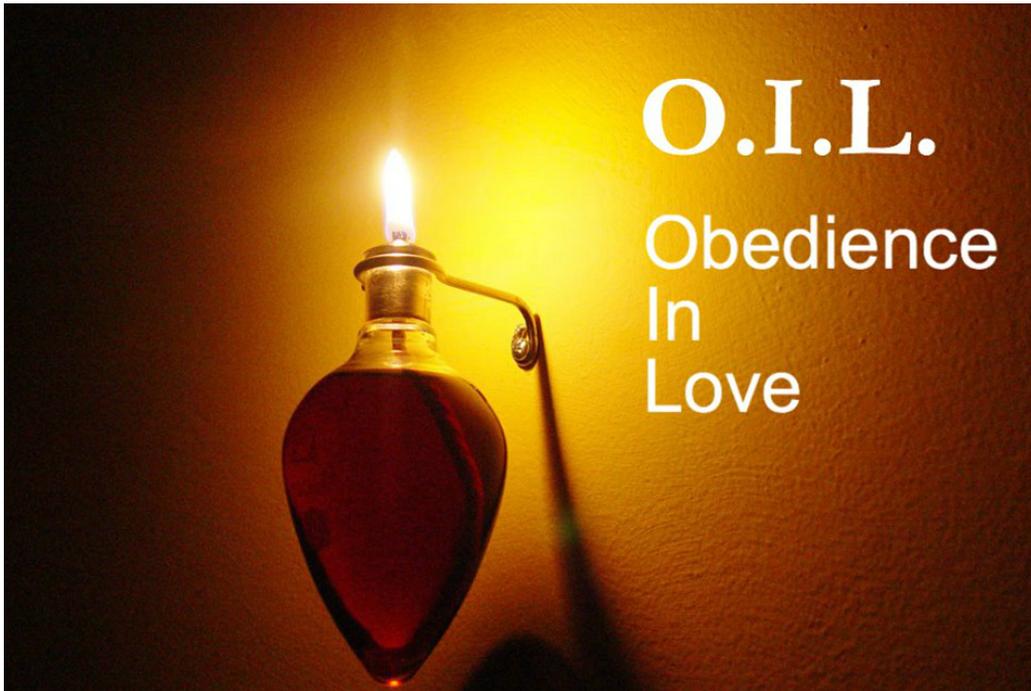


## GROUP QUESTIONS: #RELATIONSHIP GOALS

Miles McPherson / March 19, 2017

### Perfect Love



**THIS WEEK:** Pastor Miles, continued the series on relationship foundations. Today the focus was on our love for and obedience to God. And how they are a foundational part of our relationship with Him and with each other.

### Ice Breaker

FILL IN THE BLANK: God is bigger or more powerful than\_\_\_\_\_.

### Opening Discussion - Study Questions:

1. Think about a time, or the times when you were in pursuit of a person, an object, an experience, or a position that you wanted desperately to have.
  - 1a. How often were your desires in direct conflict with Gods word, and how

often and for how long did they provide any fulfillment?

**1b.** How often did you, or do you deny your own feelings and desires not because you couldn't achieve them but because they were or are in direct conflict with Gods word?

**1c.** Describe how your view of love has changed from being about satisfying yourself to a commitment to obey God?

**2.** Give an example of one of the scenarios from questions 1a or 1b.

**3.** Pastor Miles, spoke on what THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS. Was it Love, or Obedience and why?

### **Group Activity - Putting Knowledge Into Action:**

**1.** Rate yourself on a scale from 1-10 on your knowledge of the Bible. Now rate yourself on how often you've taken part in actions that were motivated only by the desire to help others and to bring them closer to God. What do your ratings say about where you are at in your relationship with God?

**2.** Make a list of at least 6 things that you know God wants you to start doing, or stop doing, or doing more of.

**2a.** From this list identify which are the hardest and the easiest for you to obey fully.

**2b.** From this list identify the one thing that has been on your heart the longest.

**2c.** From this list identify which one is beyond your ability to obey fully.

**3.** From this list ask God which one of these He wants you to focus on and commit to first.

### **Going Deeper - Personal Challenge:**

- 1.** If your spiritual gifts are not bearing fruit, if your prayers are not being answered, if there are no miracles, and few blessings in your life, it may be due to disobedience in one or more areas of your life. Ask God to search your heart and reveal this to you if this is the case.
- 2.** Often when we are making a decision for God over our own desires, our feelings leap quickly into gear asking our brain to rationalize why we should not commit to action. Looking over your list from question #2 see if this isn't true and re-examine why they are still on the list.
- 3.** Imagine the most vile person you know of personally or from history. What would you do if God asked you to demonstrate His love for them?

### **Taking it Home - Application:**

- 1.** God wants us to return the love He shows us daily. Determine not to do, to do, or to do more of one thing every day to show God that you love Him in return?
- 2.** Practice taking your thoughts captive throughout each day and then bringing them into submission to the will of Jesus.

**BONUS VIDEO:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ng3rDQmZEDA>

**MEMORY VERSE:** 1 John 2:5 But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him.

**TRIVIA:** To remain in love for a lifetime, secular therapists advise couples to: listen actively to your partner, ask questions, give answers, appreciate, grow intellectually, include your partner, be honest and trustworthy, tell your partner what you need, give respect, never threaten to leave, always say “no” to adultery, and don’t assume the relationship will last forever without an ongoing effort in these areas.

**QUOTE:** Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind, And therefore is

winged Cupid painted blind. - William Shakespeare, A Midsummer Night's Dream

**LIFE GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS:**

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