



Belonging to Him

**OUR NEED FOR
LOVING RELATIONSHIP**

A person is seen from behind, wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt, with their arms raised high towards a dramatic, golden sunset sky filled with clouds. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and long shadows.

Belonging to Him

**OUR NEED FOR
TRUE RELATIONSHIP**

A person is seen from behind, wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt, with their arms raised high in a gesture of praise or worship. The background is a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise, with golden light breaking through dark, textured clouds. The overall mood is one of awe and spiritual connection.

Belonging to Him

**OUR NEED FOR
TRANSCENDENT RELATIONSHIP**

A person is seen from behind, wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt, with their arms raised high in a gesture of prayer or praise. The background is a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise, with golden light breaking through dark, layered clouds. The overall mood is one of hope and devotion.

**Belonging to
Him**

God So Loves YOU!

God So Loves YOU!

I recently preached a sermon called *Everything Personal*.

God has reached out to mankind personally from the very beginning. That while he is transcendent, he is also intimate and personal with his creation.

God So Loves YOU!

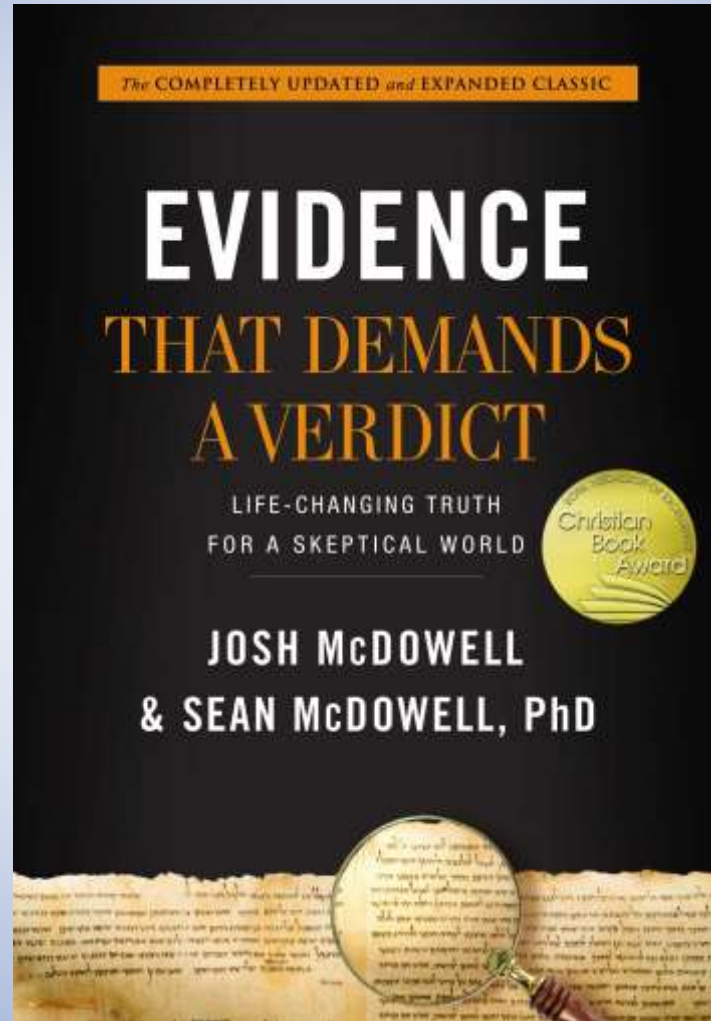
This morning, we're going to zero in on this concept a bit further.

Specifically, we're going to explore the question...

“Does God really love ME?”

If the deepest need of the human heart is personal relationship, then seeking confidence that God's love for us is truly personal isn't just about trivial insecurity or ego.

God So Loves YOU!



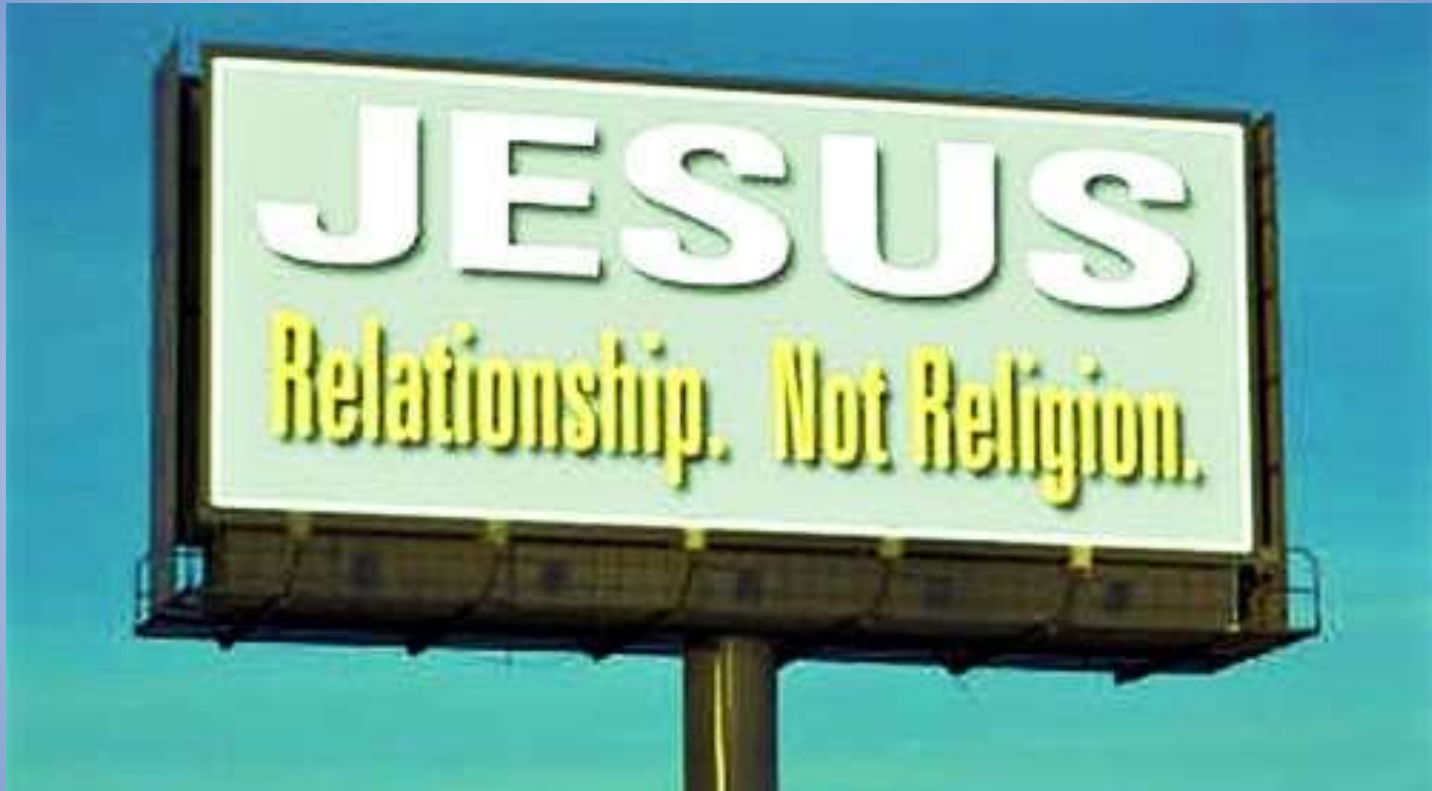
Apologist, Josh McDowell

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Does God really love ME?

“I realized that if I were the only person on earth, Christ would have still died for me. You may think that irrefutable intellectual evidence brought me to Christ, but the evidence was only God’s way of getting his foot in the door of my life. What brought me to Christ was the realization that he loved me enough to die for me.” – Josh McDowell

God So Loves YOU!



God So Loves YOU!



“God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

God So Loves YOU!

Why Is It So Hard To Believe?

It may be a consequence of the fall—or our *aloneness* from God. We define ourselves by:

- What the world has told us we are.
- What we've told ourselves.
- What we believe God would say if he really saw us for who we are.

We can't conceive that God could ever love us for who we are deep inside.

God So Loves YOU!

God So Loved ME



God So Loves YOU!

God So Loved ME



God So Loves YOU!

God So Loved ME



God So Loves YOU!

Why Is It So *Important* to Believe?

1. Because it's the only way to belong to Christ fully and grow and mature as his disciple.

“The love of Christ compels us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and he died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for him who died and rose again on their behalf.” (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)

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Why Is It So *Important* to Believe?

1. Because it's the only way to belong to Christ fully and grow and mature as his disciple.

If we don't really believe God loves us personally why would we really believe that God will *change* us personally?

God So Loves YOU!

Why Is It So *Important* to Believe?

2. Because it's the only way to be free from judgment and love others as Christ did.

“We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us.

By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as he is, so also are we in this world.” (1 John 4:16-19)

God So Loves YOU!

Why Is It So *Important* to Believe?

2. Because it's the only way to be free from judgment and love others as Christ did.

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. We love, because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:16-19)

God So Loves YOU!

Why Is It So *Important* to Believe?

3. Because it's the only way to love others in such a way that the world can belong to him, too.

“No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.” (1 John 4:10-12)

God So Loves YOU!

**How Can I know he
truly loves ME?**



God So Loves YOU!

How Can I Know He Truly Loves ME?

- Immerse yourself in Scripture.

“When [Jesus] saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” (Matthew 9:36)

*“Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.”
(John 11:5)*

God So Loves YOU!

How Can I Know He Truly Loves ME?

- **Immerse yourself in Scripture.**

“While he was still a long way off, his father saw [the prodigal son] and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.” (Luke 15:20)

“Jesus, looking at [the rich, young ruler], loved him...” (Mark 10:17-22)

God So Loves YOU!

How Can I Know He Truly Loves ME?

- **Immerse yourself in Scripture.**

“Just as the Father has loved me, I have also loved you; abide in my love.” (John 15:9)

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How Can I Know He Truly Loves ME?

- **Seek God in prayer, asking him for the conviction that he loves you personally.**

“The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.”

(2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

God So Loves YOU!

How Can I Know He Truly Loves ME?

- **Allow others into your life who will love you intimately and personally, flaws and all, with the love of Jesus Christ.**
- **Ask these people to intercede for you in this area and remind you that the issue is ultimately spiritual.**
- **Love *others* intimately and personally, flaws and all, with the love of Jesus Christ.**

God So Loves YOU!

Josh McDowell's Relational Apologetic

“After I made a decision to place my trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord, the love of God inundated my life. He took my hatred for my father and turned it upside down. Five months after becoming a Christian, I found myself looking my dad right in the eye and saying, “Dad, I love you.” I did not want to love that man, but I did. God’s love had changed my heart.”

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Josh McDowell's Relational Apologetic

“I was [later] in a serious car accident. I was moved home from the hospital to recover, and my father came to see me. Remarkably, he was sober that day. He seemed uneasy, pacing in my room. Then he blurted out, “How can you love a father like me?”

God So Loves YOU!

Josh McDowell's Relational Apologetic

“I said, ‘Dad, six months ago I hated you; I despised you. But I have put my trust in Jesus Christ, received God’s forgiveness, and he has changed my life. I can’t explain it all, Dad. But God has taken away my hatred for you and replaced it with love.’”

God So Loves YOU!

Josh McDowell's Relational Apologetic

“Then my dad said, ‘Son, if God can do in my life what I’ve seen him do in yours, then I want to give him the opportunity.’”

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