



Leading People into a Growing  
Relationship with Jesus Christ!

**Antioch CELEBRATION Message:** Gracious Obsession

**Sermon Series:** OBSESSION – God’s Pursuit of YOU

**Dates:** March 25-26, 2017

## Start the Conversation

Which is more important to you, that God has a meaningful purpose for your life or that God genuinely loves you?

## LEARN / live / love / lead

The Old Testament book of Hosea is about God’s overwhelming love for His people. Hosea, one of God’s prophets, was commanded to give a dramatic human display of God’s love by marrying a prostitute named Gomer. Gomer would continue to be unfaithful to Hosea, and Hosea would continue to love, care for, and provide for Gomer through the continual betrayal. Today, we borrow this dramatic story to help us understand God’s continual faithfulness to us despite our many attempts to love and serve money, human relationships, and other substitutes rather than our Creator.

When the Lord first began speaking to Israel through Hosea, he said to him, “Go and marry a prostitute, so that some of her children will be conceived in prostitution. This will illustrate how Israel has acted like a prostitute by turning against the Lord and worshiping other gods.”

**Hosea 1:2 (NLT)**

Then the Lord said to me, “Go and love your wife again, even though she commits adultery with another lover. This will illustrate that the Lord still loves Israel, even though the people have turned to other gods and love to worship them.” So I bought her back for fifteen pieces of silver and five bushels of barley and a measure of wine. **Hosea 3:1-2 (NLT)**

How does this help you better appreciate the following verse?

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. **Romans 5:8 (NLT)**

To what length did God go to bring YOU back home?

## learn / LIVE / love / lead

What is the bridge between LEARNING that God loves us and LIVING a transformed life?  
**Humility.** What is humility—can you describe it in other words?

We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. **Romans 3:22-24 (NLT)**

Like Hosea, God's love says more about Him than it does about those he loves. When you think about your spiritual life, do you tend to describe it based on what you have done or what God has done? Perhaps an example would be the difference between someone saying, "I'm spiritual because I go to church every Sunday" and "God kindly invited me to join His family, and now I get to be a part of His church!"

## learn / live / LOVE / lead

Jesus said the greatest commandment is:

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*You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. Matthew 22:37 (NLT)*

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Does this discussion increase your love for God?

What new thoughts are you having about what God is like?

Pastor John said that a lot of people think our relationship with God is more like a mortgage than a marriage—more like a behavior contract than a lifelong love relationship. How would you describe your CURRENT relationship with God?

## learn / live / love / LEAD

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. **Ephesians 2:8-10 (NLT)**

God not only LOVES you, he has many good things planned for you to DO!

How is God uniquely asking you to display his love to the world around you?

## *Pray!*

As you approach the God who gave His only Son for you, remember that "obsession" is a great description of the unfathomable love God has for you. Approach the God of the universe in thankful humility—thanking Him for His love and His purpose for your life!