

Jeff Foxworthy was once sharing things you never hear a father saying to a son. One of the things was this: "Son, you just got your driver's license, and it is Friday night. Here is my brand new truck and my Platinum Master Card. Go wild this weekend! We will see you on Monday morning!" You will probably never hear that.

Why will you probably never hear that in a relationship between a father and a son? Because of a little four letter word – love.

See all of those banners up front this evening? The foundation of those names is that four letter word – love: God's love for us.

All of those names tell us how much God loves us. The Bible says, "*God so loved the world that he gave his Son...*" The Bible also says, "*Each day the LORD pours his unfailing love upon me...*" [Psalm 42:8]

We know that sometimes love says "Yes" and sometimes love says "No." God's love is not without guidance and purpose.

God would never say to us: "It is Sunday afternoon, and I give my whole world to you to use in whatever way you want. Go wild!"

God would never do that because of that four letter word – love. God loves you too much to let you just go.

That brings us to the name of God we are looking at this evening. A little background is needed. There is a Hebrew word that is spelled "A-d-o-n." That word means a master.

There have always been many masters in this world. Today we call them employers, bosses, IRS, and many other names. Anything or person who claims our allegiance is a master. They are an "Adon."

The Bible says that God is, not our "Adon," but our "Adonai." The addition of the "ai" means this: Our God is Lord of all lords, Owner of all owners, Master of all masters.

Now, we can treat this Lord of all lords in one of two ways. These two ways are described for us in a book by Bob Sjogren titled, "Cat and Dog Theology." Let me put a quote from the book up on our screen tonight:

There is a joke about cats and dogs that conveys their differences perfectly. A dog says, 'You pet me, you feed me, you shelter me, you love me. You must be God.'

A cat says, 'You pet me, you feed me, you shelter me, you love me. I must be God.'

The God-given traits of cats ('you exist to serve me') and dogs ('I exist to serve you') can be similar to certain theological attitudes held by many Christians.

Bill Bright once said: "Love your Master, trust your Master, obey your Master."

1. Love your Master.

Jesus calls us to love the Lord our God with all of our what...? Heart. Heart is our inward life. The places deep inside. Jesus invites us to love our Master with all that is deepest in us.

Jesus also calls us to love the Lord our God with all of our what...? Soul. Soul is our emotions. Jesus invites us to let allow our emotions for God to be expressed.

Jesus call us to love the Lord our God with all of our what...? Mind. Mind is our ability to think through and consider. Jesus invites us to plan time in our lives to honor our God.

2. Bill Bright also reminds us to: Trust your Master.

A Master Trust Fund is an investment tool. In a Master Trust Fund resources are pooled together to get a better financial deal.

To get a better deal in life, Jesus invites us to not just have a Master Trust, but also to Trust your Master. I believe that is a good investment for life.

3. And then Bill Bright reminds us to: Obey your Master.

What is the longest commitment you have going in your life? Some possible things are: 8 years as a student – 15 years in the same job – 23 years in the same house – 33 years married to the same spouse – 54 years with the same hairstyle!

Hopefully obedience to the Master is somewhere in that list of longtime apprenticeships.

So, at the risk of offending some cat lovers, is your spiritual life more like that of a cat or a dog?

You feed me, you shelter me, you love me. I must be God.

You feed me, you shelter me, you love me. You must be God.

Think about it as your call upon the name of the Lord – your Master.