

I LOVE YOU, DO YOU LOVE ME

- Five love languages- how do we show love for God
- Not just a Christian culture but a living relationship with God

1. *“The burden of the Word of the Lord”*

- Malachi in time of Nehemiah (450BC)
 - Israel returned from exile, life still tough
 - Careless about worship, stingy in giving, indifferent
- Burden- heavy, difficult to bear
 - Word of God never fluff, always huge consequences
 - Two edge sword, saves or condemns

2. *“I have loved you, says the Lord”*

- God loves us, does it make us tremble in response?
- *“How have you loved us?”* – going through tough time

- Do we question God’s love for us?

3. *“Was not Jacob Esau’s brother”*

- Brothers, twins, neither better, Esau older with privileges
- God’s love, unconditional, sovereign & free
- Mystery, not God passing over Esau but loving Jacob
- God loved you before time- your picture on the fridge
- Do you tremble that you came to know God- He chose you?
- First things first- before looking at your lifestyle- do you love God?

Questions for reflection.

These questions can be followed up personally, with a Christian friend, in your small groups, or in discussion after the service. Reflection is important because too often we hear a good sermon and soon forget it without actually growing spiritually or changing in attitude or what we do. The reflection questions are meant to be challenging, because our spiritual growth and the salvation of others is so important.

- What in this sermon stood out for you? What was comforting, what was challenging?
- Where do you see your current relationship with God: very close, close, indifferent, far away? Why, what makes you conclude that? What has made it so?
- How do you respond to God saying “*I have loved you*”? Do you: doubt it, take it for granted, want to hear more, tremble in awe? Why do you have that response? What will you do about it?
- What steps do you need to take/will you take to (even more) express your love for God? What will you change in your life?

Christian Reformed Church of Sydney *“Like Christ in all of life”*

Preaching programme: February 2010

Morning series: **MALACHI**

Feb 7 **Hills & Ryde: *I love you, do you love me?***
Malachi 1:1-5

Feb 14 Hills: Corrie Nel
Ryde LD: *Worship with your best*
Malachi 1:6-14 Lord’s Supper

Feb 21 Hills LD: *Worship with your best*
Malachi 1:6-14 Lord’s Supper
Ryde: Corrie Nel

Feb 28 Hills: Ray Hoekzema (Classis Swap)
Ryde: Dr Bill Berends (RTC)

Evening series: **PRAYER**

Feb 7	LD: <i>Your will be done</i>	L.D.49
Feb 14	LD: <i>Give us our daily bread</i>	L.D.50
Feb 21	LD: <i>Forgive us as we forgive</i>	L.D. 51
Feb 28	Ray Hoekzema (Classis swap)	