

Are You In It For The Reward, To Avoid Hell, What?

I. Introduction: Like with marriage, some pursuits start with a carnal desire (**I Corinthians 7:1-5**). Also, like with a marriage, a relationship has to be formed and motives have to change (**Ephesians 5:25**).

A. We should desire eternal life and this lesson is not saying otherwise (**I Timothy 6:12**).

1. Eternal life is promised to the faithful (**I John 2:25**).

2. We should certainly look forward to what is to come (**Philippians 3:1-15**).

B. This lesson is not saying we shouldn't fear the consequences of sins (**Proverbs 16:6**).

1. Godly fear (**Hebrews 12:28**) is required to please God (**II Corinthians 7:1**).

2. Hell is to be feared (**Matthew 10:28**; cf. **Mark 9:42-48**).

II. Body: Ask Yourself This... Shouldn't You Be A Disciple Because of The Relationship Even More Than Being Motivated By Consequences (**I John 4:16-19**)?

A. Our desire to live for Christ should be motivated by what He did for us (**Romans 14:7-9** and **II Corinthians 5:14-15**).

1. As Zacharias said concerning Israel, our service is motivated by the fact that redemption is in Christ (**Luke 1:67-75**).

2. We've been bought (**I Corinthians 6:20**) and delivered from sin (**Romans 6:1-7**) and should faithfully serve Him for those reasons (**Romans 6:8-13**).

3. As we have read, *"We love him, because he first loved us"* (**I John 4:19**).

B. We have a Father in Heaven (**Galatians 3:26-29**).

1. Being a child of God means a lot (**Romans 8:17**, **Romans 8:31-39**, **Ephesians 1:3**, **Revelation 21:7**, etc.).

2. We should want to be like our Father (**Ephesians 5:1**; cf. **I Peter 1:13-16**).

3. Consider God's perspective when His children are disobedient (**Malachi 1:6**).

4. On the other hand, love is the bond of perfectness (**Colossians 3:14**).

5. Therefore, *“Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life”* (**Jude 1:21**).

C. Consider some of the dangers that come with being moved only by the fear of Hell or the desire of a reward...

1. Carnal fear isn't lasting (**Jeremiah 44:7-11**).

2. Reward minded thinking will cause bartering (**Mark 8:36-37**).

3. We'll never understand love (**Mark 12:28-33** and **I Corinthians 13:1-13**), and will thus only obey God out of obligation similar to that of a loveless marriage (**Revelation 2:1-7**).

4. We'll never understand our purpose for existing (**Ecclesiastes 12:13-14** and **Revelation 4:11**).

5. We'll need motivators instead of just being constant as we should be (i.e. **Psalms 73:25-28**) because of what God has already done for us (**I Samuel 12:20-24**).

6. In reality, we will be approaching a spiritual relationship based upon carnal desires/fears which ultimately prevent faithfulness (**Romans 8:5-8**).

III. Conclusion: Be “In It”, Obediently, For The Relationship (**John 14:21-24** and **John 15:9-10**).