

LOVE FOR THE LORD

"If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15.

"And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself." Luke 10:27.

True love is the basis of every vital connection with Christ. It is the basis of the Christian life. A true Christian is more than one who has a respect for religion, or has been baptized, or holds membership in some church. A true Christian is one who has experienced the pardoning love of Christ and in turn loves Christ and His church and His kingdom with a deep and abiding love.

If a person loves the Lord Jesus Christ with all his heart, soul, mind, and strength, that love will manifest itself in his doing certain things, for example,

1. Thinking about Him.

Here is the art of meditation, the art of sincere thinking about the Lord and divine things. In these busy and rushing days this is neglected all too much. We need more time for quiet meditation on Christ and the high and holy things of this life and the life which is to come.

It is not strange that we think much about those things which we love most. When a person loves another he will spend much time in thinking about that person. When one is fond of wealth, or travel, or pleasure, he will spend much time thinking about these things. It is the same with our love for the Lord. If we love Christ supremely, we will spend much time thinking about Him, about His will, about His Word, about His way, about His church, and about His kingdom. We are assured that we love Christ if we spend much time in thinking about Him. A poet gave a bit of timely advice when he wrote:

"Think often of Jesus, for thinking
Will make us but love Him the more
By pondering over His mercies
We swing aside gratitude's door."

2. Reading about Him.

This is the secret of Bible reading and meditation on His truth. We enjoy reading the Bible because we delight to read about Jesus. We enjoy reading the prophecies about His coming. We delight in reading about what He did while He was here in this world, and it is a joy to read about all He will do for us now if we will fully trust Him. One reason why many do not enjoy reading the Bible is because they do not have any love for the Lord.

We enjoy reading a good letter from some relative or some good friend who lives elsewhere. We are made to rejoice when we read favorable comments or complimentary remarks about our best friends. We read the books which are written by those we love.

So, if we really love Christ we will enjoy reading the Bible in order to learn what He has to say and to learn what others have said about Him. If we really love the Lord we will have real joy in reading about Him.

It is always well for us to remember that what people read has much to do with the formation of their characters. Take heed to your reading and especially read about Christ and His work.

3. Hearing about Him.

This is the secret of attendance upon the worship, teaching and training services of the church. We enjoy hearing about the good fortunes of the people we love. Just so, if we love Christ we will never tire of hearing the charming story of His wonderful life and power and work. We will often gather in His house to honor Him, to worship him and to serve Him. The charm of the pulpit has been and always will be Jesus Christ. As we hear the story of His love over and over again it will grow sweeter and sweeter and our love for Him will increase.

4. Talking to Him.

This is the secret of private and personal prayer and communion with the Lord.

5. Talking about Him.

This is the secret of evangelism and of all missionary work to the ends of the earth. It is not strange that people enjoy talking about that which they love most regardless of what or whom that may be. How a loving mother enjoys talking about her child! How a fond grandmother does enjoy talking about her grandchild!

If we love Christ and His Word, and His church and His kingdom, we will rejoice in the privilege of speaking of these divine and eternal things. If we love the Lord as we should, we will become flaming evangelists of His mighty truth.

6. Obeying Him.

It is not strange that we seek to please the persons we love most. The fond child seeks to please loving parents. On one occasion several boys were playing marbles. In the midst of their sport, the rain began to fall. Freddie stopped playing and said, "Boys, I must go home: Mother said I must not be out in the rain." "Your mother, nothing! the rain won't hurt you any more than it will us," said the boys. Turning upon them with a look of pity, and the courage of a hero, Freddie replied, "I'll not disobey my mother for any of you!" A loving child wants to obey his or her parents. The good church member seeks to please the pastor for the sake of Christ and His church. The good Christian seeks to please and to obey Christ because he loves the Lord with his whole heart. This is the secret of service for the Lord.

These are some of the evidences of our love for the Lord Jesus Christ. May each of us so live that we can prove to the world that we truly love our Lord.