

## Love is All God Is

Some crave for recognition, and their motivation to do “good” is to be thanked and praised, which is Satan’s sin, desiring to be first (3 Jn 1:9). If they are not honored, admired, and recognized they will not “do you good” any longer. They may sulk and try to get glory from others, talking about you negatively (Mt 12:37), until they are promoted to be a leader and recognized as someone in authority.

Worldly glory is great honor and admiration won by doing something important or valuable (Jn 7:18; 2 Cor 11:15). They’ll do anything to bring them this recognition (“glory hound”), but love is not their motivation (inner drive, intention, or incentive to “do good”).

Benevolence (literally, “good wishing”) is to do good, kind, charitable deeds. They may appear to be benevolent, but when it comes to patience, their motive is exposed. 1 Cor 13:1-7 is love from a good will or motive. Benevolent love (#26) is hard to fake long. Benevolence is not shown by doing what the one loved desires, but what the one who loves deems is needed by the one loved. God’s love for man is His doing what He thinks is best for man, and not necessarily what man desires. It is His willful direction toward man. But for man to show love for God or man, he must first receive His love, as Rom 5:5, before he can love as 1 Jn 3:16 (Jn 13:34; 1 Jn 3:23; 2:15).

So love is the fruit of the Spirit, and some can pretend love or loving, but not as Pr 17:17 — at all times. As our Master said, “You are My friends if you do what I say,” and He says in Jn 13:34 to love as He loved, and 1 Jn 3:16 says what love is. So who can love this way? And only if we can love and do love as 1 Jn 3:14 says is Jn 5:24 valid, for it is only the one who *does*. It’s not just doctrine we memorized.

1 Cor 13:1-7 says that we can be nothing more than a clanging cymbal. We all can *feel* like a clanging cymbal, can’t we? (1 Jn 1:6-9; 2:1-6)

Faith, as Paul said, can move mountains, but it means nothing without love. How many get so busy with what we call serving in the Body, but it's really all self-serving when you get right down to it. It's for our own selfish gain, and we forget to love as our Master loved. He never got too busy to love. We can lose the opportunity to love one another and begin to doubt our eternal security.

1 Jn 3:14,16,23 — Verse 16 is the definition of the love He had, by which we know we have passed out of death and into eternal life — by the Spirit who confirms our security in Messiah (verse 24). But there are those who are very clever, who can find a way to mix kindhearted deeds with a self-centered schedule and make you feel good about it. But love is not self-seeking. If we check your love thermometer, you may be surprised at how low it really is — how cold you really are. But this takes judging yourself right (1 Cor 11:27-31).

Love is all God is. We are to be perfect as He is (Mt 5:48). If His love has found a home in our hearts, then our love is patient, and there is no scorecard to tally. We won't keep a record of our encounters, point by point, to see how well we are doing. A *scorecard* is a card for recording the score of a game. But love never fails (1 Cor 13:4-8). It rejoices in the truth, even when it comes to us as a rebuke.

Paul could write to the Thessalonians, “Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another.” (1 Ths 4:9)

A person looking to be loved places an impossible burden upon others, for a person like that can never be pleased or satisfied. If one demands to be loved and is never taught by God to love, he will finally be rejected, not being an equal recipient of God's grace. His own desire has deceived him, therefore he is discarded (Jn 15:6).

Our job and responsibility is to love, not to seek love in return. Otherwise, we still place an impossible demand upon others, for grace is lacking due to our own selfish desires. As Messiah died on the cross, we also should be of this nature and attitude (Phil

2:4-8). We must neither give nor receive any offense. To a disciple who is abiding in Him (1 Jn 2:6), self pity and depression is a waste of time. For an overcomer it is always so.

A person who is waiting to be loved, tapping the floor with his foot, will have a long wait. For some it will be a thousand years. When we think certain ones aren't loving us or paying us enough respect or attention, this is not the Spirit of our Master, but of the evil one who has "touched" us (1 Jn 5:18, NKJ) because we did not "keep ourselves" from him (Mt 6:13). Such people set themselves up as the judge and feel that they have already been perfected in love, have already overcome (1 Cor 10:12).

There is nothing we can do that is greater than to love one another. Knowledge puffs up while love builds up (1 Cor 8:1). Love is who our Elohim is, and reflects on who He is in us (Pr 17:17). If I love to love, then I know 1 Jn 3:14 is not just a memory verse. A friend loves at all times; a brother is allied in the same struggle. We will make it as a team, on our Father's side, if we are with Him.

A worthless spirit thinks of "getting in good" with someone who can advance one's career, satisfying his desire for esteem and admiration.

A *motive* is a desire that causes a person to act. Whether it is pleasing to our Father (1 Jn 3:22) is according to our *motivation* — the source of the impulse, incentive, or inducement behind it. *Motive* implies an emotion or desire operating on the will and causing it to act. It is a driving power arising either from love or self glory. Whether your motive is good or evil must be judged by you. Who are you wanting to please? You must judge whether your action is prompted by deliberate enticement or to gain admiration from another.

Don't thank a servant, or he may act just to receive credit, recognition, admiration or glory for himself, as the one in Jn 7:18 who seeks his own glory rather than the glory of our Master. The one who seeks his Master's glory and not his own is true, and there is no deceit or falsehood in him. 1 Pet 4:11 — The one who speaks from himself seeks his own honor, and whoever exalts himself will be humbled (put down, Lk 14:11). But he

who humbles himself will be exalted (Jms 4:10), recognized by the Spirit of truth, and respected and admired by others.

The confirmation and revelation in Jn 14:21 is for the sake of the Kingdom; it is authority from God, not manufactured by the one who exalts himself. Jms 4:10 — Our Father will lift you up or put you down. We are warned that lifting ourselves up or exalting ourselves will result in a disgraceful fall, but humbling ourselves gains glory for our Master by our usefulness to Him (Acts 2:33; 5:30-31; Rom 8:17-19).

Striving for acceptance, recognition, or admiration can come in other ways, such as how you look, the clothes you wear, the styles of the world, seeking to look good so as to gain what will eventually be lost in the place one pays for his sins — if he can. *Narcissism* is excessive or erotic interest in oneself and one's physical appearance, striving for that euphoric feeling that comes from what others may think of you if you look good, even from something as superficial as a style of dress or of furniture.