

Our Spiritual Love For Jesus Christ

Matthew 22:35-40 [New King James] *“Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, ‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?’ Jesus said to him, ‘“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.’”*

Love for the Creator God and love for our fellow human beings fulfil all the law and the prophets.

All Christians believe that God reveals Himself in Jesus Christ, so to love Jesus Christ is in truth to love the Triune God.

Yet love as experienced by human beings may be on either of two levels, the human and the divine.

These are not the same, they differ not only in intensity and elevation but also in kind.

Human love is undoubtedly the best thing within the human race, though it is often perverted and degraded, and without it life on earth would be even more unendurable. Let us treasure what is left of love among human beings. It is not perfect, but it makes life bearable and even sweet at times.

But human love is **not** divine love and should never be confused with it.

In the Greek language there are different words for the love of God and the love of human beings, the major two used in New Testament are “*phileō*” meaning to be fond of, having regard to feeling rather than from principle, hence not used for God’s love for human beings.

“*Agapé*” is used when referring to the love of the Triune God including hence the love of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, [Galatians 5:22-25].

Among the sentimental religionists, the two loves are accepted as being the same and no distinctions are made.

This is a great moral blunder and one that leads to spiritual frustration and disappointment.

If we are to think clearly and pray rightly, we must recognise the difference between love that is merely human affection and the other love which comes from the Triune God through the active presence of the Holy Spirit in us, [1 John 4:19; Galatians 5:22-25].

The “*agapé*” love which God has for us, means a love that is spontaneous, irrespective of the “*rights*” or response of the recipient, [**Romans 5:8**] a sacrificial love, [**John 3:16-17**] that puts aside personal desires, [**Philippians 2:5-8**] to love the object of that love, human beings.

The human mind and heart can love the human Jesus Christ as it can any other human being, but the spiritual love relationship between a human being and the Creator God Jesus Christ, [John 1:1-5, 14] is something altogether different from, and infinitely superior to, the purest of love the human heart and mind can know.

In fact it is **not** possible to return love to Jesus Christ as our Saviour expect by the Holy Spirit actively generating that love, it being a “*fruit*” of the Holy Spirit.

The spiritual love for Jesus Christ and the Father is nothing else but the Holy Spirit in us loving them.

Jesus Christ, after the flesh, receives a great deal of fawning attention from the liberal and modern religionists, but love that is not the outflowing of the Holy Spirit in us is not true spiritual love and cannot be acceptable to the Triune God.

We do not honour to Jesus Christ when we do no more than give Him the best of our human love. Even if we love Him more than any other human being.

Jesus Christ is only loved as very God when the Holy Spirit within us does the loving.

Many of the loud protestations of love for Jesus Christ in present day gospel circles illustrate what is being pointed out in this article. For they leave the discerning mind with the impression that they are but “sounding brass or a clanging cymbal,” [1 Corinthians 13:1].

The Greek word used in **1 Corinthians 13:1-13** is “*agapé*.”

Innumerable sweet love ballads are sung to Jesus by people who have never known the inward illumination of the Holy Spirit, [John 16:13] or felt the shock that comes with a true sight of the sinful pollution of human beings by Satan, [2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 5:19; Revelation 12:9] that is part of the work of the Holy Spirit.

John 16:5-15 [New King James] *“But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.”*

This is how the Holy Spirit will bring us out of the darkness of deception that Satan has inflicted on this world.

While the important distinction between the human and spiritual love of and for Jesus Christ is one that must be discerned, it is difficult to fully explain, yet certain attributes need to be found in our hearts and mind.

Reverence – that is the result of fear. Reverential fear of the Triune God should be a controlling motive of our lives in spiritual and moral matters; not merely a fear of His power and righteous retribution, but a wholesome dread of displeasing Him, [Proverbs 1:7; Proverbs 9:10] through a lack of wisdom.

A deep respectful fear which banishes the terror that shrinks from His presence, [**Romans 8:15-17; 1 John 4:18**].

A deep respectful fear which influences the disposition and attitude of a person who is guided and trusts in the Triune God, through the active indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Self-abasement – is always found in the heart and mind of a person who loves Jesus Christ with a true spiritual love.

When Paul saw Jesus, he fell on his face, [**Acts 9:3-6**].

John after the revelation given to him by angelic servant of Jesus Christ, [**Revelation 19:10; Revelation 22:8-9**].

Heavenly elders – [Revelation 4:9-11].

John 9:31 [New King James] “Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him.”

The worship of God must be accompanied with obedience to the will of God.

Romans 12:1 [NIV] “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, **this is your spiritual act of worship.**”

This is the total submission to the Creator God. The Greek word translated “bodies” is “soma” meaning physical body, mind and “human” spirit, [Job 32:8; Proverbs 20:27; 1 Corinthians 2:11] **the whole life experience.**

Paul tells the Christians at Rome that such a submissive attitude is a “spiritual act of worship.”

It is most important that we know whether our relationship with Jesus Christ is divine or merely a human emotion.

Our eternal future is dependent on such knowledge.