

We Become What We Love

As human beings we are all in the process of becoming.

We have already moved from what we were in the past to what we are, and we are constantly moving towards what we will become.

Our character development as a human being is **not** solidly fixed but is fluid.

In itself this is **not** a disturbing thought, the person who is seeking honestly to know themselves may take great comfort in the realisation that they are **not** fixed in their present state.

The real disturbing thought is **not** that we are becoming, but **what** we are becoming.

It is **not** within human nature to move on a horizontal plane, we are either ascending or descending.

Morally we either travel towards worse or better.

Revelation 22:11 [NIV] *“Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile; let him who does right continue to do right; and let him who is holy continue to be holy.”*

Not only are we all in the process of becoming, we are becoming what we love.

Every human being is morally, to a large degree, the sum of our loves and will grow into the likeness of what we love most.

Love is a creative affinity, it changes, moulds, shapes and transforms.

It is without doubt the most powerful agent affecting human nature next to the direct action of the Holy Spirit, where it is active within the life of a human being.

Loving wrong objects is fatal to spiritual growth.

It is **only** as we love right objects that we will become right.

It is **only** as we continue to love what is right that we continue to experience the slow but continuous transmutation into the object of our affection.

Matthew 22:35-38 [NIV] *“One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ‘Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’ Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.”*

If we love God with all our being, then we will slowly become like the One we love.

To become like God is and must be the supreme goal of all human beings.

Genesis 1:26 [King James] *“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”*

The Hebrew word translated “*likeness*” is “*demûwth*” meaning two for one or character.

This is the reason that human beings have been created to love and be loved by their Creator God, apart from this there is **no** excuse to be found for our existence.

Before God calls us to fulfil this reason for our existence He allows us to experience what consorting with is Satan influenced world is like. [**1 John 5:19; 1 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 12:9**]

Romans 5:8 [NIV] *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

It was in the midst of this experience that we were called by God, this was to demonstrate God’s great love and compassion for all humanity. [**John 3:16-17**]

Romans 8:29-30 [NIV] *“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.”*

There is then a slow but steady transmutation of rebellious human nature into the very character of the Creator God, the foundation of which is love. [**2 Corinthians 3:18**]

The love we are talking about is **not** the “love” that the human mind can generate, it is a love that comes **only** from the Creator God Himself.

1 John 4:19 [NIV] *“We love because he first loved us.”*

We can **only** receive this love because God first expressed it towards us in the act of the sacrifice of Himself in the person of the Son of God, Jesus Christ. [**John 3:16**]

The Greek word used by John the apostle in his letter is “*agapé*,” this describes a love that is a spontaneous, sacrificial love, that is irrespective of the rights or response of the person receiving that love.

This is a love that cannot be generated by a human being within their own ability, it has to come from God Himself who is that love. [**1 John 4:8, 16**]

Galatians 5:22-23 [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”*

This “*agapé*” love is the first and foremost “*fruit*” of our personal relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 5:32 [NIV] *“We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”*

This love is received from the Holy Spirit who is given to those who are becoming a human being that obeys their Creator God, instead of living in rebellion against Him.

This love is **not** a feeling but an expression of our will and a submission of that will to that of Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord.

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 change of direction in our lives is a personal sacrifice of our will in response to the love that the Creator God has extended to us.

This initial change and sacrifice of our will, as the result of our growing reflection of God’s love, will lead to our making other changes in our lives.

Romans 12:2 [NIV] *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

A complete renewing of our mind.

We cannot love God without loving those things that He loves.

The first is righteousness –

Hebrews 1:8-9 [NIV] *“But about the Son he says, ‘Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the sceptre of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.’”*

Our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

As we are drawn to righteousness we will be repulsed by wickedness.

Matthew 6:33 [NIV] *“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”*

Seeking God’s righteousness in our live is part of our seeking to be within His Kingdom, the created family of God.

Next is wisdom –

So high do the Old Testament writers place Godly Wisdom that sometimes we can scarcely distinguish the wisdom that comes from God from the wisdom that is God.

The Hebrew thinker of the Old Testament could **not** divorce wisdom from righteousness. A wise person was a good person, and wisdom at its noblest reaches was to love God and keep His commandments.

Another object for a Christian’s love was truth –

Again we have difficulty in separating the truth of God from God Himself.

John 14:6 [NIV] *“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.’”*

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, introduced Himself as the truth, and in so doing joined truth and God in inseparable union.

To love God is to love the truth.

To love the truth is to grow towards the “likeness” of our Creator God.

The sum of all we should cultivate interest in and love as morally beautiful, is expressed in the apostle Paul’s letter to the Philippians.

Philippians 4:8-9 [NIV] *“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me, put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”*

This is the new direction our thoughts and love should travel in our journey towards the Kingdom of God.