

Vol. 3 – Day 19: Is Your Love for God a Passionate Love?

It seems that generation after generation drifts farther and farther from God. Some of this is purely the tendency of the natural man to cater to his own whims. But tragically, much of the drift is caused by the incorrect doctrines and practices of the *Christian* way. As we make idols out of the scriptures and altars out of Biblical artifacts, we replace the love of God with various forms of self-righteous behaviors which undermine His love.

Beware of your own propensity to *stand on the Bible* making it an idol to be worshipped above all else. This relegates the God of the Bible to a lesser place. And, if in reflection on your life, you discover that the Bible has not produced a lifestyle which closely resembles the unconditional love that Jesus lived, consider the most viable explanation. You have placed more value (worth; worship) on the commands and dictates of the **word** of God than on the enormous **love** of God. The Bible is myriad stories of deeply personal relationships with God.

If you do not believe that God wants your obedience to be born out of love rather than duty, you will not find yourself in love with God. Many have a love for God, but it is diminished for them by feelings of guilt, shame, or fear. God's plan of Salvation for you, was not only to cover the penalty of evil you commit, but also to remove all feelings of guilt or shame associated with that evil. Because, quite frankly, you cannot be intimate with anyone before whom you cower in either guilt or shame. God not only wants to be up close and personal with you. He also wants to be intimate with you, more so than you are with your most significant other on earth.

If you will abandon yourself to intimacy with God, you will eventually find yourself transformed into a most amazingly loving person. In order to **love like Jesus loves** you must unleash His Presence within you. It is actually **His love, not yours, that compels** others into a love affair with God for themselves.