

### Volume 4, Day 8: Passion

The human heart moves us by emotion to do nearly, if not everything, we do. We become people pleasers in order to receive the admiration of others. We do things for applause and recognition. We often do even dishonest things in order to be accepted in one crowd or another. This happens in every aspect of our lives. Yet, many of us feel as though we cannot be our true selves and still be embraced by others. And in many cases we are correct. Many people only hang out with others of like mind or talent or vocation.

The quest of humanity pulls us in myriad directions. Yet we long to be free from the tyranny of the **should** of others. And we make this even worse by tyrannizing those around us with our opinions and **shoulds**. All the while the secret longing to be loved “as-is” with no changes, goes unsatisfied as we continue to hide behind what we think are expressions which will endear us to another.

One thing that is common to all humanity is the desire to be the object of another’s passion. We know that those we treat the best are the ones we care deeply about. We may not realize, however, that we are the greatest obstacle to finding the love we crave. We tend to be negative and critical. At the same time we expect others not to return that negativity. Is this not a bit less than sane?

The crux of the Gospel is that Jesus’ passionate love for us compelled Him to suffer our punishment. He did not give up His life as the noble or right thing to do. His love for us is nothing short of passion! God likely suffered even greater agony than Jesus, in watching mankind brutally beat and crucify His Son naked on a cross.

“...God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life.” — John 3:16