



Let God Love You Instead

1 John 4:10 (NKJV) *"In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."*

Words of Ministry

One day as I was reading the Bible I came across a familiar passage of scripture: *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength"* (Mark 12:30). As I prayed about this and expressed my desire to love God more, the Holy Spirit said something to me I had never heard before. He said, "Son, did you know that this commandment is still under the old covenant? It is the summation of the law." That got my attention. I said, "Lord, if that is the old covenant, what would you say is the summation of the new covenant? And immediately this verse came rising up out of my spirit: *"In this is love, **not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son...."*** (1 John 4:10).

You see, the Old Testament puts the responsibility on us and says, *"Love God with all your strength"*; the New Covenant, however, says, *"God loves you with all His strength!"* The law demands, but grace supplies. *Our loving* God is the response of *His loving* us. The more of His love we learn to receive, the more love we return to God out of gratefulness instead of obligation.

All my years in churches I have heard the same repeated message: "You have to love God more! You must have more passion for God and more commitment to God!" Yet many times this approach only puts people under the condemnation of the law. And spiritual demand that puts the work on us rather than turning our faith to the work of Christ, places us under the law instead of grace.

To love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength is certainly the most important thing in life, but how do we do that? What is the true definition of love? Let the Bible define it for us: *"... **this is love, not that we loved God, but***

that He loved us..." Love is God's commodity. **"God is love"** (1 John 4:8). Anytime we define love we have to start with the Source: God Himself. True love is God Himself and to love God means we have to start with receiving, not giving. In the end, love is not about our love for Him, but His love for us!

When Jesus taught that the greatest commandment was to love God with all our heart He was setting us up for the Answer to that demand. He was on His way to the cross. At the cross, He became the very fulfillment of this law for us when He loved us with all His heart, soul and strength, by laying down His body and life on the cross for us. Romans 5:8 says, *"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* We can love God because we receive His love for us. The answer to *our* heart, *our* mind, *our* soul and *our* strength loving God is to daily receive the love of *God's* heart, *God's* soul, *God's* mind and *God's* strength for us!

Beloved, we are no longer under the law but under grace. This is the most important theological understanding we can have in regard to the teaching of the Bible. And grace tells us that God loves us, not that we love God. Yet, we will love Him when we see how much He loves us. In essence our love for God is the echo of His love for us. Our love is the heart response to being loved.

Beloved, God has seen you trying your best to love Him. And because He loves you, He wants you to sit down and be still, and let Him love you instead. He wants to love you with all that He is and all that He has. He loves you unconditionally regardless of who you are or what you have done because His love is not dependent on you but on Himself. He will never stop loving you. You can just be free in that, rest in that and trust Him in that. Soon you will discover that loving God is not about strain and effort but about receiving and flowing in the heavenly stream of God's love flowing to you in the person of His Son.

So let God love you today. Take moments in the day to just say, "Lord, I receive Your love for me. Thank you for loving me with all Your heart, all Your soul, all Your mind and all Your strength." Then just receive that into your being by faith. Soak. Be filled, saturated and permeated with the divine love of God. Don't worry about your loving Him. The more of His love you receive, the more you will fall in love with Him and reflect that love back to God in a life of spiritual fullness.

