

A Personal Relationship with God

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1. We must not love in words, but in deeds and in truth. (1 Jn. 3:18).
2. To love a person in deeds is to love a person with works of help. (1 Jn. 3:17).
3. These works, if done without the truths or Faith of Christ to enlighten the mind about the true needs of the person, are works done without Faith, and works without Faith is self-salvation or sin. (Rom. 9:31, 32. Rom. 4:1, 2, 4).
4. Thus the deeds must be done through the inspiration of Faith which is the revealed Truths or knowledge of God. (Phil. 1:9).
5. To love a person in truth is to love him with the truth. (Eph. 4:15. 1 Jn. 3:18).
6. Lying to a person to help them is obviously wrong, speaking truth to a person is the way to love the person. (Pr. 12:17. Ps. 119:17).
7. You love a person with truth not as mere facts but with Gospel truth. (1 Pet. 1:22).
8. Thus relating to all with Gospel truth, or with the truths of the Plan of Salvation is genuine love. (2 Thess. 2:16. Acts 20:24).
9. Love is the Nature of God, because God is Love. 1 Jn. 4:8, 16.
10. But our love is not the Divine Nature, but it cannot exist without the Divine Nature. (1 Jn. 5:2. Jn. 15:4, 5).
 - a. We can only love people with the love of God. (Rom. 13; 8, 10. 1 Jn. 3:17).
 - b. When we explain the truths of the Plan of Salvation, and this reveals the love or nature of God to a person, this is loving the person. (1 Jn. 3:18. 2 Thess. 2:16. Acts 20:24).
11. Loving a person with the love of God is God working in us to will and to do His good pleasure; it is God loving the person through us. (Phil. 2:2:12, 13. 1 Jn. 3:17).
12. However, it is spiritualism that presents love as sentimentalism. We are told.

“Love is dwelt upon as the chief attribute of God, but it is degraded to a weak sentimentalism, making little distinction between good and evil.” **Ellen G. White, The Great Controversy, p. 558.**

 - a. Here is what the word sentimentalism means.

“Sentimentalism, sentimentality ... disposition to wallow in sentiment: self-conscious working up of feeling; affection of fine feeling...” **The Wordsworth Concise English Dictionary, p. 907.**

13. Here are facts about love being called a mere emotion of sentiment.
 - a. It is from the work of evil angels that simple emotions are called love.
 - b. Such emotions allowed to flow and satiate the mind without regard for truth, and makes no difference between good and evil is sentimentalism. This betrays the presence of evil angels working with them. This is spiritualism also.
 - c. Love, presented as a mere emotion of sentiment, that passes the truth, and fixates the mind upon the feelings. This is a satanic method to blind the rational judgment of the person, so that he can be led to ruin without seeing the process of destruction until it is too late.
14. Emotions are good when they are united with the truth. They strengthen a person in the truth but the truth must come first then the emotions can accompany it. (Eph. 4:32).
15. Our love to God is exalting or glorifying Him, this is the same as presenting to our fellowmen the Love of God through the truth, or loving our fellowmen. (Jn. 14:15. Rom. 3:31. Rom. 4:20. 1 Jn. 5:2, 3).
16. Love to God and love to man on our part can only be done if we have a truly personal relationship with God. (1 Jn. 5:1-4. Heb. 11:6).
17. But what is a personal relationship with God? What does this mean? The closest God can be with us is to be IN us, when we eat the flesh of Jesus and drink His blood to have His life in us. (Jn. 6:50, 51, 53, 54, 56).
18. What does it mean to eat His flesh? His flesh symbolizes the word of God. (Jn. 1:14).
 - a. To eat His flesh is to meditate (reasonably think about and assimilate) on the word of God, accepting its unfolded reasoned truths to affect your meaning for living. (1 Tim. 4:6, 15, 16. (Ps. 119:11)).
19. What is the blood of Christ? It is the life of Jesus Christ. (Lev. 17:11, 14. Deut. 12:23).
 - a. This Life is a knowledge/experience of God (the Divine Nature) and Christ (the Divine Character). (Jn. 17:3. Jn. 1:18).
 - b. To drink this life is to receive this knowledge of God and Christ into the philosophy of a person's reason for existing. (Jn. 6:53-57).

- c. So the life of Christ in the person means an experience of the love of God in, and with the Faith of Christ, in the person's consciousness. (Jn. 14:23. 2 Jn. 9).
- d. This is a living experience of God in the person, it is what it means to be alive in Christ Jesus. (Rom. 6:11, 13. Gal. 2:20).

20. It is this personal relationship with God herein explained that makes the difference between the wise and foolish virgins as Mrs. White explains.

“They have no oil in their vessels with their lamps. They [the foolish virgins] are destitute of the Holy Spirit. Without the Spirit of God a knowledge of His word is of no avail. The theory of truth, unaccompanied by the Holy Spirit, cannot quicken the soul or sanctify the heart. One may be familiar with the commands and promises of the Bible; but unless the Spirit of God sets the truth home, the character will not be transformed. Without the enlightenment of the Spirit, men will not be able to distinguish truth from error, and they will fall under the masterful temptations of Satan. The class represented by the foolish virgins are not hypocrites. They have a regard for the truth, they have advocated the truth, they are attracted to those who believe the truth; but they have not yielded themselves to the Holy Spirit's working. They have not fallen upon the Rock, Christ Jesus, and permitted their old nature to be broken up. This class are represented also by the stony-ground hearers. They receive the word with readiness, but they fail of assimilating its principles. Its influence is not abiding. The Spirit works upon man's heart, according to his desire and consent implanting in him a new nature; but the class represented by the foolish virgins have been content with a superficial work. They do not know God. They have not studied His character; they have not held communion with Him; therefore they do not know how to trust, how to look and live. Their service to God degenerates into a form. (“They come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as My people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness.” Ezekiel 33:31).” **Ellen G. White, Christ Object Lessons, p. 373.**

21. **Recommendations:**

- a. Each person should meditate on the truths of the Bible daily to learn truths from personal revelation.
- b. Let these truths give you purpose for your existence and pleasure to follow them.
- c. Commune or talk with God personally every day and become familiar with Him.

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