

John 21:16 [16] He said to him the second time, Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Feed My sheep.

The Question do you love me may seem simple at the first glance. In one sense it is very simple Even a child knows whether they love someone or not. Yet it is also a very searching Question.

It's a question every believer must ask them self. Do I love God. Our very salvation hinges on this. Life or death, heaven or hell, depend on our ability to answer the simple question “Do you love Christ?”

We must Consider 2 points in opening.

1. In the first place, let me show *the peculiar quality and feeling of a true Christian towards Christ*, —he loves Him

A true Christian is not more baptized than others, not a better church goer. They not only go to Church on Sunday or bible studies then just live like the want to the rest of the week as if there was no God in Heaven. Just because they have high moral standards doesn't mean they are Christians. They may know all the right things to say.

This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. Matthew 15:8

They say LORD LORD Luke 6:46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

Ignorant lip-worship is not true religion. The Scripture speaks clearly;—“*They are not all Israel which are of Israel.*” (Rom. 9:6.) The practical lesson of those words is clear and plain. All are not true Christians who are members all are not true members who even know the right words to say.

A True Christian is one who has Christ in His life and heart. A new heart full of Love. Full of warmth. A heart turned from old ways and turned to God. They feel it in their own heart. Love compels them to obey God. *John 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love*

him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. A living Faith is felt in the believer’s heart. *And a living faith is clearly seen by others by the believers walk, and behavior, and manor in which they conduct their affairs.* There was a time they saw their own sinfulness and badness and repented. They see Jesus Christ as the divine savior and they are committed to Him. They put off the old man with corrupt and carnal habits, and put on the new life. They fight the good fight against the world, against the flesh, against the devil. CHRIST is the corner stone of their Christianity. If you were to ask them in, what do you trust for the forgiveness of your sins, they are very clear in their answer – the death of Christ. Ask them in what righteousness will you stand on the judgment day. They will answer the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Ask them what pattern they follow for their lives, and they will answer They follow Jesus Christ.

But beside all this there is one distinguishing mark, One clear evidence and that is the LOVE of Christ. Knowledge, faith, hope, reverence, obedience, are all marked features in a true Christian’s character. But his picture would be very imperfect if you left out “love” to his Divine Master. The True Christian not only knows, trusts, and obeys. He goes further than this, —**he loves.**

This authenticating mark of a true Christian is one which we find mentioned many times in the Bible. Just as “**Faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ**” is an expression mentioned many times in the Bible. An expression most Christians know. Let it never be forgotten that love is mentioned by the Holy Spirit in almost as strong terms as faith. No one will argue that it’s a **great danger** for the one “**that believeth not,**” Yet also the danger of him that “**loveth not**” is **equally great.** Not believing and not loving are both steps to everlasting ruin.

1 Corinthians 16:22 If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha. Let him be accursed. Let him be put over to God for Him to punish.

The Apostle allows no way of escape to the one **who does not love Christ.** He leaves no loophole or excuse. A man may lack clear knowledge and still be saved. He may fail in courage and fear man like peter did, He may fall terribly like David fell and yet rise again.

But if a man does not LOVE Christ he is not in the way of life, a curse is upon Him and he is on the broad road to destruction.

Listen to What the Apostle says to the Ephesians *Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.* Ephesians 6:24

The Apostle is sending the closing greetings to all Christians, many of who were young Christians, some weak in the faith, some weak in Knowledge some weak in self-denial. He uses an expression that includes all the true ones, under one common name – they all LOVED Christ in sincerity.

Hear what the Lord Himself says. To the Jews. “If God were your Father, ye would love Me.” (John 8:42.) How misguided the Jews were satisfied with their spiritual condition, on the one argument that they were children of Abraham. Just like many people today that claim to be the lord on just as weak grounds. That they are the Lords because they attend Church, because they have Christian Parents or they give offerings to the church. The Lord lays down one clear rule. NO MAN has the right to call god His Father who does not love Christ. Without LOVE for Christ there is no Sonship to God.

Hear again what the Lord Jesus Christ said to the Apostle Peter. He asked Do you LOVE ME. He did not ask do you believe me, He did not ask are you converted, He did not ask Peter are you ready to confess me before men. Peter, will you obey me. He uses none of those expressions. He says Peter do you love me. This is what our entire Christianity hinges upon A simple yet searching question. Plain and easy to understand by even the most unlearned, even by the poorest among us. Even by the most advanced among us. **The is the one question that tests the reality of genuine faith.** If a man truly LOVES Christ all is right - If not all is wrong.

Do you want to know the secret of our Love towards Christ. Which clearly distinguishes us as true Christians. “We love Him because He first loved us.” (1 John 4:19.). We love God for He sent His only begotten Son. And we love Christ for all that He did for us. He took my punishment upon the cross, He suffered in my place. He redeemed me, He blotted out my sins. He freed me from the captivity of sin and the world. He placed me on the narrow way to heaven. He gave me light

instead of darkness. Peace instead of uneasiness. Hope instead of hopelessness. Life instead of death. Is it any wonder that a true Christian LOVES CHRIST.

We love Him for all that he daily does for us in suppling our daily bread. Daily suppling mercy and grace. Daily we lean upon Him, He raises us up when we stumble and fall. He protects us from many enemies. He is preparing an eternal home for us. No wonder we love the Lord Jesus Christ. He has done so much for us.

Does the debtor in jail love the friend who unexpectedly and undeservedly pays all his debts, supplies him with fresh capital, and takes him into partnership with himself?

A little child can answer this question. YES, THERE IS LOVE Just in the same way, and upon the same principles, a true Christian loves Jesus Christ?

THE LOVE OF CHRIST is inseparable to saving faith. when a man is truly Justified by faith in Christ there will always be deep love present. He that is really forgiven is the man who really loves. *Luke 7:47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.*

Love to Christ is the mainspring of work for Christ. There is little done for His cause on earth from sense of duty, or from knowledge of what is right and proper. The heart must be interested before the hands will move and continue moving. Excitement may spur the Christian's hands into a fitful and occasional activity. But there will be no patient continuance in well-doing, no unwearied labour without love.

The nurse in a hospital may do her duty properly and well, she may give the sick man his medicine at the right time, may feed him, minister to him, and attend to all his wants. **But there is a vast difference between that nurse and a wife tending the sick bed** of a beloved husband, or a mother watching over a dying child. **The one acts from a sense of duty,** —the other **from affection and love.** The one does her duty because she is paid for it, —the other is what she is because of her heart. **It is just the same in the matter of the service of Christ.**

The great workers of the Church—the men turned the world upside down, have all been ones who love Christ with their whole hearts. Examine the great men of old. These men have left a mark on the world. And what was the common feature of their characters? **They all loved Christ.**

Love for Christ is the point which we ought specially to dwell upon, in **teaching faith to our children.** Election, imputed righteousness, original sin, justification, sanctification, and even faith itself, are matters which sometimes puzzle a child of tender years. **But love is far more within reach** of their understanding. That He loved them even to His death, and that they ought to love Him in return. **So simple and how true it is,** *“That out of the mouths of babes and sucklings Thou hast perfected praise!”* (Matt. 21:16.). You may think you know a lot about Christianity. You may even be able to quote much scripture. And yet it’s possible you know far less than even a little child who only knows one thing, the LOVE of Christ. Rich and poor, educated, and uneducated Methodist of Baptist. We all have one thing in Common we all believe in Gods LOVE, For God so loved us that He gave. Our hope is in the Love of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Many people are perhaps ignorant of all the truths and couldn’t present a good argument to defend a bible doctrine. But they know the love they feel for the one who died for their sins. There is a moving story “I cannot speak much for Christ, sir,” said an old uneducated Christian woman to a preacher; “but if I cannot speak for Him, I could die for Him!” Isn’t this the true mark of a believer, one who is so full of Love for Christ that they are willing to give their all for Him.

LOVE for Christ will be the distinguishing mark of all saved souls in heaven. A great multitude which no man can number. Old differences will fade and merge into one common feeling. Old doctrinal arguments fiercely contested upon earth will be covered over by one common sense of gratitude and love for Christ.

All will find themselves joining with one heart and voice in that hymn of praise, *“Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”* (Rev. 1:5–6.)

When we love a person in this world, our husband or our wife a parent and a child a brother and a sister or our friend **There are some common questions we ask that reveal if there is affection among us.** Let these questions be honestly answered.

1. If we love a person **we think about them**, no one needs to remind us about them. We do not forget their name or their appearance or their character or opinions, and tastes. Thoughts of them come into our mind many times a day. Even if they are far away, they are still present in our thoughts. It's just the same between the true Christian and Christ. We don't need to be reminded He is our saviour, because we love Him He is in our thoughts constantly.
2. When we love a person, **we like to hear news about them.** We find it a pleasure to hear others speaking about them. We are very interested in any report about them. We are very attentive when others talk about them describing their ways their sayings and doings.
3. If we love a person, **we love to read about them**, what pleasure to get a letter or email or message from a loved one. Others are not really interested to read it but its precious to us. Some keep the letter close to them and read it over and over with great Joy. It's the same with those who Love the Lord they love to read scripture over and over It gives them joy and comfort and strength.
4. If we love someone, **we desire to please them.** If we ask them to come and eat, we find out their tastes and give them what they approve of. We don't give them what they dislike. If we really love them, we even deny ourselves to meet their wishes. The true Christian wants to Please God because He loves God.
5. If we love someone, **we also like their friends** – the True Christian regards all Christs friends their friends.
6. If we love a person, **we are jealous about their name and their honour.** We don't like people to speak badly about the one we love. We stand up for them and defend them. A true one will not be silent but will speak up for His master's cause, why because He loves Him.
7. If we love a person, **we love to talk to them to pour out our hearts to them.** We find no difficulty talking to them. The true Christian finds no difficulty talking to His saviour. Speaks to Him in the morning speaks in the night, we love to be with them always.

These are some marks of true love plain and simple. Let us ask ourselves honestly **do we love our saviour.** Do we love Christ Jesus. **It's no answer to say I believe.** I'm asking what Christ asked Peter, **do you Love.**

“Man,” said a thoughtless, ungodly English traveller, to a North American Indian convert, —“Man, what is the reason that you make so much of Christ, and talk so much about Him? What has this Christ done for you, that you should make so much ado about Him?”

The converted Indian did not answer him in words. He gathered together some dry leaves and moss and made a ring with them on the ground. He picked up a live worm and put it in the middle of the ring. He struck a light and set the moss and leaves on fire. The flame soon rose, and the heat scorched the worm. It writhed in agony, and after trying in vain to escape on every side, curled itself up in the middle, as if about to die in despair. At that moment the Indian reached forth his hand, took up the worm gently and placed it on his bosom. “Stranger,” he said to the Englishman, “Do you see that worm? I was that perishing creature. I was dying in my sins, hopeless, helpless, and on the brink of eternal fire. It was Jesus Christ who put forth the arm of His power. It was Jesus Christ who delivered me with the hand of His grace and plucked me from everlasting burnings. It was Jesus Christ who placed me, a poor sinful worm, near the heart of His love. Stranger, that is the reason why I talk of Jesus Christ, and make much of Him. I am not ashamed of it, because I love Him.”