

THE TEST OF OUR LOVE

John 14:21

Introduction: It is supposed by many that anyone who professes to know for certain that he/she is saved, accepted by God is at the height of arrogance. True, there are some who make such a profession who do so falsely for they have never been saved by God in the first place. However, on the contrary, there is such a thing as "knowing for sure." Jesus said, "*..in that day you shall know that I am in my Father, and you in me and I in you...*" It is true that making such a statement of being sure without a test is indeed dangerous, but there is a test, an infallible rule whereby one may know for certain - **John 14:21**. Jesus has established a standard whereby all who profess **MUST** be judged. Not until our experience meets the standard, do we have any right to expect approval of God.

I. HOW DO WE JUDGE OUR LOVE?

1. There are many things that are not real proof of one's love.
 - Feelings
 - Belonging to a certain group.'
 - High regard for social and public laws.
 - Great mental experiences in church services.
 - Hopes and fears, joys or sorrows.
 - Strong feelings about one's safety, state of being.
2. There is one and only one mark, sign, whereby we can form judgment about said faith in Jesus.
 - "*...by their fruits ye shall know them...*"
 - Those who show a sincere regard for God's commandments are the **ONLY** ones who truly love the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. If one truly loves Jesus, he/she will have Jesus' commandments in his/her heart.
 - Will be a desire to conform perfectly, completely to Jesus' will.
 - Will study God's commandments with His will in mind, not just hastily read them, but meditate, search and ask God to reveal their truths.
 - Will treasure God's Word, "*...will hide it in their hearts...*"
 - Will not think it tiring, useless or boring but will desire to study more and more in order to be able to stand perfect and complete in the will of God.
4. If one loves Jesus, then he/she will keep God's commandments in his/her life also.
 - He/she will always be "walking in the way of God's commandments."
 - He/she will be more concerned about spiritual things than material things.
 - He/she will be "*...seeking the kingdom of God and His righteousness...*" first not "*...laying up treasures upon earth...*"
 - He/she will be quite in contrast with those who love the things of the world more than Jesus.

5. God's commandments are as clear as noon day light.
 - There are different opinions which sometimes carry one away from the correct path.
 - If God's Word says to go one way and a person goes the other, he/she is not worthy of any praise or acknowledgement as a Christian.
 - Anyone who justifies the use of an evil temper is unworthy of the name "Christian."
 - A proud, passionate, obscene or indecent Christian is as much a contradiction to Jesus as an atheist, idolater or a murder.
6. There are imperfections in the very best Christian but the uniform character of all who really love Jesus Christ is reflected in his/her obedience to God's commandments.

II. WHAT CAN BE EXPECTED BY THOSE WHO TRULY LOVE JESUS?

1. They shall possess His favor, His love, and will be accepted by Jesus and have good done to them.
2. Jesus shall reveal Himself to them when reading God's Word, praying, meditating. God will remove any "veil" over one's heart and will lift up that person that he/she is His child and give him/her a taste of heaven.

CONCLUSION:

1. Many profess Christianity and yet seriously dishonor it by their conduct, therefore the prejudices of many against Christianity or a Church/Denomination are greatly strengthened.
2. There is but one test of one's love for Jesus. Everyone who professes to be a Christian must try his/her profession by that test.
3. Those who habitually violate any one commandment, should remember their pretended love to Jesus is but hypocrisy and delusion. The more confident one is of his/her acceptance by Jesus, the more one is being deceived by his own soul.
4. Those who are in a small way showing their faith by their works, do more, let your light shine brighter and brighter.
5. Being an unhappy professor of faith in Jesus doesn't mean salvation isn't there and there is no circumstance under which Jesus cannot make the soul happy.
6. Being accepted by Jesus Christ and God the Father is a thing to be happy about. Be sure of your acceptance and get happy.