

“Don’t Get Personal Unless You Understand How” James 1:12-18 Impersonal love depends on the honor and integrity of the one who loves and it does not require intimacy, friendliness, or even acquaintance with the object of one’s love because it’s an attitude of soul thinking whether there is an object or not; while personal love depends on the attractiveness, capacity and response of the one who is being loved. Personal love creates weaknesses because we bring our own problems into any personal relationship and so does the one we love causing the problems, shortcomings and faults of two people to be combined and multiplied in a personal love relationship. A believer who understands and practices impersonal love does not need to ever rely on the object of

his love for strength and support because he is sustained by the biblical truth contained in his own soul. Personal love can never sustain a human relationship because personal love is virtue-dependent and therefore, it takes impersonal love as a safety net to ensure that the relationship will flourish. Our impersonal love for all people is based on our understanding of Who God the Father is and what God the Son has done for us and our personal love for God the Father and His Son is our devotion to Them for Who They are and what They do. We will never properly love anyone else on earth until we truly love God Who is in Heaven. We cannot personally love anyone we do not know. God’s devotion is always focused on the task at hand. Respectful love for God, also know as the fear of the Lord in the Bible, inspires us to live according to the Object of our love’s concerns above our own. When we come to the understanding of God’s unwavering devotion to us demonstrated at the Cross when He judged His precious Son for us, we are obviously driven to greater respect for Him. Please don’t be a believer in Jesus Christ who is completely surprised when you enter Heaven. Notice that a perfect marriage in perfect environment did not prevent the Fall of Man! Our respect for God will always respond positively to His grace initiation and therefore, the more we know of God’s grace, the greater our response to it; $G+T=H/B$. Our love for God from a recognition of His love for us first, is expressed in our faith in Him and His promises to us which will be seen in our obedience toward Him. The spiritual solution is often the most difficult and highly painful way out. Satan’s biggest deception is that he wants most to wreak havoc and destruction on earth. God is NOT the author of sin.