

Romans # 178

“Virtue Love”

*Romans 13:10 Matthew 22:36-40*

**There’s something we all need more than love and it’s truth; for how would we know what love is without truth to explain it?**

God is eternal infinite perfection; therefore, His love is eternal infinite perfection.

*Since God is love, always has been love and always will be love, He does not fall in love, nor can His love be compromised in any way.*

The inflexibility of God’s love is the basis for stability in human love.

Love can be fantastic, if the relationship is based on mental attitude virtue.

**Love can never be successfully directed toward people apart from truth.**

**Before we even look for friendship or romance, we need to grow up spiritually so we have virtue to love with.**

Then when we find someone we’re compatible with, it can become a lifetime friendship, a great romance and a permanent, wonderful marriage.

*God always remains consistent with His own integrity and if there’s ever going to be true love in our lives, we must have integrity also.*

God’s love has a perfect unchanging capacity at all times and capacity is one of the secrets to human love, yet people want to be loved and they all too often, fall in love, without any capacity at all.

Personal love is only a virtue when directed toward God the Father and God the Son.

**The only love directed to man that has virtue is impersonal love because it’s for all mankind and it’s the only time when man is totally fair in interaction with other people.**

**God couldn’t have commanded us to love each other unless He found a way to share His virtue-love with us.**

But it is possible for us to love God whom we can’t see when we advance in spiritual self-esteem.

*Personal love for God is an insulator against disappointment in personal relationships.*

Wrong priorities and wrong emphasis in life leads to the believer becoming a loser who manufactures his own problems and has no problem-solving devices with which to cope.

Personal love for God protects us from wrong emphasis and being impressed with the wrong things in life.

**Loving yourself may be conscious or unconscious; if it’s conscious, always trying to feed and promote self, it’s arrogance; if it’s unconscious, in the case of the mature believer, occupied with Jesus Christ, he takes his self-consciousness (awareness who he is in Christ) and relates it to everything in life.**

The basic difference between personal and impersonal love is that personal love always has an object; impersonal love doesn’t have an object and impersonal love is strong as it emphasizes our own inner character, it’s what we are, while personal love is vulnerable because it emphasizes the object of our love and is therefore virtue dependent.

*To love our neighbor properly is to do so on the basis of our own standard of love and not their standards.*

**Freedom doesn’t stand alone; it must be related to privacy and property and harming a neighbor is invading his privacy and/or stealing his property.**

*‘You shall love the one near you (your neighbor) as yourself’ does not imply that your love for yourself is the standard; instead, biblical truth in your soul becomes both your capacity and your standard*

**for this impersonal love.**

*When we are victims of gossip, maligning, judging, grudges, retaliation or revenge, we do not reciprocate if we operate on our own high standards but if we operate on the low standards of the attacker, we fail to honor our Father in Heaven.*

**Every time we hold a grudge or retaliate, seek revenge, express hatred, vindictiveness, jealousy or arrogance in an attitude of payback, we've abandoned our standards of impersonal love for the lower, evil standards of the one who attacked us.**

**Impersonal love emphasizes the subject rather than the object; therefore the standards are applied to ourselves rather than the object.**