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H A T E M E - L O V E M E

Deuteronomy 5:9-10

*For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who **hate Me**, 10 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who **love Me** and keep My commandments.*

Deuteronomy 7:9-10

*9 "Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who **love Him** and keep His commandments; 10 and He repays those who **hate Him** to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with him who hates Him; He will repay him to his face.*

God is not into grey tones. It is all black and white with Him. It is all or nothing.

Matthew 5:37

37 But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

God is not into, "Do you like Me." With God it is, "Peter do you love Me." If the answer is, "Lord you know I like you." The answer is not good enough and He asks the question again.

In the New Testament Greek, there are three words for our English word love. The first one is EROS - erotic love, expressed through strong sensual passion. The second one is PHILEO - friendship, expressed through kindness and fondness. The third is AGAPE - much love, expressed through a deep devotion and sacrificial giving. It is this sacrificial love that is the highest and greatest. It is the God kind of love. It was this love that sent Christ to the cross. It is a love that gives onto death. *God so loved the world that He gave. He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

John 15:13

*13 Greater love has no one than this, than to **lay down one's life for his friends.***

The God kind of love is sacrificial love. If we love God as He loves us, we must be prepared to lay down our lives for Him. We must love with the agape kind of love.

John 12:24

*24 Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but **if it dies, it produces much grain.***

Phileo - to be a friend to (fond of an individual or an object) as a matter of sentiment or feeling.

Agape - deep sacrificial love

John 21:14-19

14 This is now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.

15 So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you **love (agape)** Me more than these?"

He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I **love (phileo)** You."

He said to him, "Feed My lambs."

16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you **love (agape)** Me?"

He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I **love (phileo)** You."

He said to him, "Tend My sheep."

17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you **love (phileo)** Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?"

And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I **love (phileo)** You."

Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."

John 10:11

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

Christ was calling and counting on Peter to take up His cross. To follow Christ in feeding the sheep. The Church age was founded by men and women who were prepared to sacrifice their lives for the salvation and feeding of the sheep. Christ's question to Peter and to us today is, "Do you love Me." Do you love (agape) Me? Peters answer was, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love (Phileo) You." Christ asked Peter this same question three times. The first two times, He uses the word agape for love and Peter responds with the word phileo. The third time Christ asks the question He uses the word phileo. Peter responds, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love (phileo) You." There is no point making it more than what it is. Peter knows that Christ knows all things, and that after Peter's denial of Christ, his love has proven to be only the phileo kind of love. However, Christ than says,

18 Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish." 19 This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."

Christ knew that Peter's love for Him was young now. He knew it was phileo. However, He also knew that Peter's love would grow and become agape when he was old. He knew that Peter would indeed follow Christ, take up his cross, feed and lay down his life for the sheep. The church would grow through the seed of Peter's martyred blood. The power of the cross would prevail and thousands of years later we would be here, today, to learn from Peter's growth transition from phileo love into agape love. Christ's question would now challenge our ears and hearts, just as it did Peters'. "Do you love (agape) Me? If the answer is yes, then Jesus says, "Feed my sheep." Lead them to me. Lay down your life for the sheep.

John 10:11

11 The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

Take up your cross and become the open door that leads them into Me. Experience, know and live the power of the cross. In knowing Me sacrificially you become their way in, you become the door, you become the way. Know the power of sacrificial, agape, love to win the lost. Know, with Me, the power of the cross, the power of sacrificial love.

God's first and greatest command is to Love Him with all our hearts. It is by loving Him that we are and will be saved.

Deuteronomy 6:5

5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

God commands a whole heart love. He demands a love that is on fire not one that is lukewarm. If you don't love Him agape above all else friendship phileo love will not cut it. God says, "Love Me or hate Me, there is no middle ground." To deny Me your whole heart is to hate Me and make yourself My enemy.

Matthew 6:24

*24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will **hate the one and love the other**, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.*

God is not in a relationship with you to be despised. You will love Him with all your heart or you will not love Him at all. You will love Him with all your heart or you will hate Him. You will be with Him or you will be counted against Him. You will gather with Him or be scattered abroad from Him.

Matthew 12:30

*30 He who is not **with Me** is **against Me**, and he who does not **gather** with Me **scatters** abroad.*

When God arose through Christ His enemies were scattered. When God rises through His Church His enemies will be revealed and scattered.

Psalm 68

1 Let God arise,

Let His enemies be scattered;

Let those also who hate Him flee before Him.

You are with Christ or you are against Christ. You gather with Him or you are scattered abroad. If you are not with Christ you will be like dust in the wind. You will be blown away. The storms are coming. The earth is shaking and if you are not completely standing on the rock, that is Christ, you will not be standing. You will fall! Christ is calling. He is calling to His church to make a decision. It is a decision that will gather you or scatter you. It will bring you into unity and oneness with Him or it will divide you

from Him. If you are lukewarm about this decision, about your love for Him, He will vomit you out of His mouth.

Revelation 3:16

16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

God is looking for a church that will stand with Him in this hour. You will be with Him or against Him. The time for playing church is over. God hates hypocrisy. He hates the actor. The one who plays at being a Christian. You are in with both feet firmly planted in Him, on the Rock that is Christ, or you are out. You will stand firmly on the Rock because you have built your house on the Rock of obedience or your house will fall because you built it on shifting sand. The house of disobedience will fall. The church that disobeys will fall out of the will of God become lukewarm and spewed out of His mouth and out of His kingdom. This is the day of the Lord. The day of His fierce wrath and only those who are hidden in the rock, in Christ, will stand the coming storms.

Matthew 7:24

*24 "Therefore whoever **hears these sayings of Mine, and does them**, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:*

John 14:21

*21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And **he who loves Me will be loved by My Father**, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."*

John 14:23

*23 Jesus answered and said to him, "**If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.***

It is the one who obeys God that loves Him and it is this person that receive the revelation of God. If you do not love Him you can not know Him. He is revealed to those who love Him. If you do not love Him you will not obey Him and if you do not obey Him you are a son of disobedience. By disobedience you will have become aligned with the father of disobedience. If you are a son of disobedience you will hate God. You will become a son or daughter of the darkness, the evil who hates God. Satan is the father of rebellion and continues to rebel and war against the will of God. He is the father of lies and with lies conducts a war against the truth. All who love self, the world and disobedience, rebellion are of the evil one and stand with him in his hatred against God. It is this relationship forged through alignment and agreement that sets the heart of the disobedient in opposition with God. It is this evil agreement that makes those who do not love God and the authority of God enemies and haters of God.

Colossians 3:5-7

*5 Therefore **put to death your members** which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things **the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience**, 7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.*

It is only through obedience revealed by love for God that enables us to put to death our members, our

sin nature, our flesh. It is only by picking up our cross and following Christ in obedience that we can be delivered from the body of sin.

Ephesians 5:5-7

*5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the **sons of disobedience**. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them.*

2 Timothy 3:1-7

*1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, **lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God**, 5 having a **form of godliness** but denying its power. And from such people turn away!*

Many in the church have a form of godliness. To deny the power of God is to deny His reality and the consequences of disobeying Him. They say they love God but are unwilling to obey Him. However, we can not call Him Lord and disobey Him. We can not say we love Him and not obey Him. If we love Him we will obey Him. Our love is revealed by our obedience. This is the test that tells God who are His and who are His enemies.

Matthew 7:21-23

*21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice **lawlessness!**'"*

Lawlessness is rebellion. It is rebellion against the rule of God. It is the despising of His authority. It is the sin of witchcraft. The desire to be in control of ones own life. The be the ruler and to rule.

1 Samuel 15:23

*23 For **rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft,***

*And **stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. (The idolatry of self worship)***

Because you have rejected the word of the LORD,

He also has rejected you from being king."

Matthew 16:25

*25 For whoever desires to save (cling to) his life (to control it) will lose it, but whoever loses his life **for My sake** will find it.*

We are called to love God for the sake of Christ. It is a love that produces, that gains the lost. It is for the sake of Christ and His ministry that we are called to love with sacrificial love. It is for us that He died and it for Him that we are called to die. True love is found here. This is the place of the cross. This is the revelation of the heart of the Father. You are in or you are out. Your love is whole hearted or it is half

hearted. If it is half hearted it is because you hate God and through apathy and in deference toward you have made yourself His enemy. You can not be passive about Christ's sake, His life and His ministry. His sake demands a whole hearted love. Hate Me or you love Me. His call demands all.