



THE PERSON OF CHRIST

WORKSHEET - EPISODE 12

Love: God Himself

God is Love, Christ is Love

1. To cheapen love is to mock Christ, since he is Love itself.

- The all-conquering love of Christ, which leads him to the Cross and Hades for our sakes, is awe-inspiringly great and unfathomable.
- When we reduce love to a fuzzy sentimental feeling, and think that cultivating those feelings is the same as truly loving, then we dishonor the God of love.
- Holding the measure of divine love before our gaze, which is the measure of the Cross, we can walk through life with a proper perspective on the meaning of love.
- Even if we don't measure up to that love, we must keep it as our goal, we must hold onto it as our destiny in Christ.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

1. We can only love in freedom: nothing can separate us from divine love except our own will.

- God does not treat us like robots. If he forced his love on us, and coerced us into his kingdom, we would not really be living in love.
- Thus we are free to accept his call to love, and we are free to reject it.
- This is why we pray "Thy will be done" over and over again. It is an expression of how we want to join our will, our freedom, to the divine will, and divine freedom. Christ accomplishes this union of divine and human will in his own person, demonstrating it in the Garden of Gethsemane ([Matthew 26:38-39](#)). This union occurs in us too by his grace when we offer our will to him. It is then that we find true freedom, since it is then that we abide in divine love.
- "Perfect love casts out fear" ([1 John 4:18](#)). St Maximus the Confessor tells us that the fear of punishment is cast out when we attain perfect love, but that even with perfect love we still need a reverential fear of growing indifferent to God (*Centuries on Love* 1.81-82).

Reflection & Discussion

1. How can we discern divine love from other kinds of love? Is it possible to reject God's love and substitute it for another kind?
2. What are some of the ways we can access divine love in our daily life? How can we retain that love?

Further reading

1. [1 Corinthians 13; 1 John 2-5](#)

2. [Wounded by Love: The Life and Wisdom of Saint Porphyrios \(Denise Harvey, 2005\)](#)