

## THE BIBLE VIEW

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### "If You Really Do Love Me ..."

*Bill Brinkworth*

Sometimes, when a Christian's lifestyle, actions, or thinking is questioned their defense is often, "I know I'm not living the way I should, but I still love Jesus." They may very well have justified their behavior that way, but what does the Bible say about living a different way than what God commands in the Bible? Is it possible to still love God, and do whatever you want? Here is some of what the Word of God says about that way of living:

- One's love for the Lord is shown by one's keeping His commandments. Following the Bible's commandments will not be grievous nor a sacrifice; it will be a natural show of love for one who wants to obey the Lord.  
*"If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15*  
*"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." I John 5:3*  
*"Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." John 14:23* Also: Ex. 20:6, Deut. 5:10, John 14:21.
- One's love for the Lord will cause him to want to live a godly life and avoid sin.  
*"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." I Peter 1:15,16*
- One's love for the Lord is shown by one's love for others, especially other Christians.  
*"And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself." Luke 10:27*  
*"If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" I John 4:20*  
Also: I John 4:21, I Peter 1:22
- One's love for the Lord is shown by one's love for the things God loves, and disdain for the things God hates.  
*"Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good." Rom. 12:9* Also: Ps. 119:128
- One's love for the Lord is shown by one's efforts in telling others about the ways of the Lord.  
*"So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs." John 21:15* Also: John 21:16,17
- One's love for the Lord is sometimes shown as he denies his own needs and desires so that others can hear God's message. This is why so many missionaries have sacrificed and many martyrs have died so that others can hear God's message.

*“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.” Mark 12:30*

*“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” John 15:13* Also: Hebrews 11.

Many call themselves Christians, but the way they live and think are contrary to what the Bible identifies as love for the Lord. The following Scriptures, and many more, identify what their “love for the Lord” really may be:

- Coldness and indifference for the Lord when sin in one’s life increases. They may be saved, but sin has robbed them of a relationship with the Lord and what love for the Saviour should be.  
*“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.” Mat. 24:12*
- The desire to look religious or righteous.  
*“And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.” Mat. 6:5*
- Love for the honor and respect of men.  
*“And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues,” Mat. 23:6*  
*“And he said unto them in his doctrine, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces,” Mark 12:38*
- Not really love, if they love the world’s way more than God’s way.  
*“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” I John 2:15*  
*“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” Mat. 6:24* Also: Luke 16:13

The Bible says one cannot “love Jesus” and do whatever he wants. Although many throw the words “I love God” around without real meaning or understanding, God is not fooled. He is the discernor and true judge of one’s heart. Love is usually followed by actions and always followed by a change in emotions and beliefs. With the above Scriptures in mind, do you really love the Lord?

**“Self-love seeks to use God. True love for Him seeks to please God!”**

### **Too Busy to Love**

*G. Campbell Morgan*

A father and his young daughter were great friends and often in each other’s company. Then the father noted a change in his daughter. If he went for a walk, she excused herself from going. He grieved about it but could not understand why she was avoiding him. When his birthday came, she presented him with a pair of exquisite slippers, saying, “I have made them for you.”

He then understood what had been the matter for the past three months, and he said, “My darling, I like these slippers very much, but next time buy the slippers and let me have your fellowship instead. I would rather spend time with my child than anything she could make for me.”

Some of us are so busy for the Lord that He cannot get much of us. To us, He would say, “I know your works, your labor, your patience, but I miss the love.”

**“To live for self or live for God is the choice we all make.”**

## **Christian in Name Only!**

*Bill Brinkworth*

There are many that claim to be Christian, but are not! They are heathen. Heathen are the unsaved and are those bound for Hell. Calling themselves Christians will not make them saved. Examine what the Bible says about heathen cloaked under the name “Christian”:

### **Heathens are sometimes called “Christians” or “God’s people.”**

*“... That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen, which are called by my name, saith the LORD that doeth this.” Amos 9:11-12* This verse is speaking of a time not yet come, but the principle applies to these latter days. Not all that claim to be children of God are children of God

### **Heathens pray.**

*“... But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.” Matthew 6:6-7* It is ironic that the outline for prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) that follows these verses is what many so-called “Christian” faiths vainly (without thought or meaning, empty of feeling) pray over and over again.

### **Heathens have religion also!**

*“... This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.” Matthew 15:7-9* There have always been those that believed themselves to be children of God but were not. It was the religious that had killed Jesus and persecuted His followers.

**Heathens can think God is using them.** (Many times, Satan the deceiver is blinding them and deceiving them with false miracles from “God.”)

*“Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” Matthew 7:20-23*

### **Heathens have performed religious routines and rituals.**

*“Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth ... and you thrust out.” Luke 13:26-28* They went to the house of God, but that didn't make them His.

Many are religious but lost. There is only one way to be a child of God — God’s way.

*“... Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3.*

***“Not sure why you are here, or where you are going? You are lost!”***