

or her. Everyone has felt that or probably would not have come. I should not say I know everyone has, but it would seem quite right that everyone has. Certainly most of us has felt that this was true. But how easy it is for us to ~~xxx~~ drift. How easy it is for us to put another objective ahead of our love for God.

Love of studies. Love of doctrine. Love of a denomination. Love of a particular group of people. Love of anything else can assume a primary place in our lives. Those other things have a proper place. We should give love to our neighbors. Above all we should give love to our families. We should love the work that God puts us into. We should love the people with whom we are association. But if any one of these loves becomes the dominate thing in our lives it is an idol. God wants us to tear down every idol throne and worship him alone.

Of course our love to God shows itself in these matters. We cannot love God and neglect these obligations. You may not love God and neglect your proper love for your family and relatives. You cannot love God and neglect your proper duties, but all of these can be imbued with your love to God and be actually a result of your love to God. God wants us not just to love Him in Word. He wants us to love him in action

Remember how Jesus appeared to the disciples after His resurrection. He said to Peter, Do you love me? He said it again, Do you love me? He said it a third time, Do you love me? Some people try to draw lesson from the fact that a different word for love is used in His expressions and in Peter's expression, and in the third time he said it from the first two. Examination of the Greek does not support this. The words just as far as proof is found mean just about identically the same. But the fact he would ask Peter three times shows how easy it is for us to slip from the Love God wants us to have toward Him.

He wants us to love in deed, not just in word. My wife had some college friends who came to visit her sometime after she had graduated. They had two children and one day they came and visited her and stayed a while. She said, Who is taking care of the children? They said, Oh we're leaving the children in the care of the angels! Well, the angels will take care of our children if we commit them to them. But we have the duty to use all the methods we can to care for and to protect them.

I think this couple thought that in putting God way ahead of their children, they were showing true love to God. But they were not carrying out an obligation God had given them in giving them the children to care for. True love includes the body as well as the heart and soul. True love involves thinking things through as well as we can. So as you enter upon the summer, I know that with most human beings as you consider what you are going to do, the first thought is, How much money will I make from it? Or how pleasant will it be? Or will it bring me into contacts that I would like to have? Each of these can have an uppermost place in our ~~xxx~~ minds rather naturally. But if we truly love the Lord, our first thoughts ~~should~~ should be, How can I best glorify God? How can I best prepare myself for future