

# What's In Your Heart?

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What's *in your heart* is easily seen *in your home*—that is where our true personality and attitudes are shown. Everyone says they love Jesus, but <sup>1 John 4:20</sup> “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?”

When the *love of God* is in our *heart*, it shows in our *home*! Divine love is a command in the Bible—Ephesians 5:1 “Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; <sup>2</sup> And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour.”

The definition is <sup>1 Corinthians 13:4</sup> “Love suffers long [is patient] and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself [is not proud], is not puffed up; <sup>5</sup> does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked [not easily angered], thinks no evil [does not hold resentment].”

Love is patient, but we often miss the point and ignore the lesson when faced with a delay. We all want to be patient but don't take advantage of the lesson.

Love is kind—the small acts of kindness mean more than anything said in words. We all want to be treated with kindness, but not so willing to offer it. If we want to be shown some consideration—we should readily offer the same to others.

Love not only thinks about the feelings of others but thinks about their reputation as well. It is what we want them to consider concerning us—if we happen to be the topic of conversation. Divine love places our wants in the back, and the other person's needs at the front. Love finds the time and takes the time to be considerate of everyone.

Love is not jealous, boastful, proud or rude—so instead of being envious of someone's blessing, knowledge, or ability, we are to be glad when God answers their prayers for those things. Instead of being jealous of them, we should be thanking God with them and thanking Him for the many blessings He has given us.

Looking for the good and the positive about others eliminates slander in us—we then know *What's in our heart?*

Divine love always seeks the good in people—not always the bad. <sup>1 John 3:11</sup> “For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.”

The Word explains how we can know our heart—<sup>1 John 3:16</sup> “By this we know love, because [Jesus] laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren”—or we can just help them feel wanted, loved, and appreciated.

Not one thing can be done in humility until pride is out of our heart. It is a choice we can make—James 4:10 “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord.” Boasting is forgetting that all we know, all we can do, or all we have learned has come from God. Anything we possess has been loaned to us by God—and it is to be used for His glory—not ours!

Love does not boast—but thanks God for the blessing and then shares it with others. Self craves attention—but humility stays in back. Pride says “I” but humility says “God.” The first step in eliminating pride is admitting we have been

proud—then <sup>1 Peter 5:6</sup> “Humbling ourselves under the mighty hand of God.”

Pride is a sin that must be dealt with without delay—and only God can deliver us from it <sup>1 John 1:9</sup>. To confess and forsake, is to be forgiven and different—completely different from the pride of the past to the humility of the present. No one—absolutely no one will enter God's kingdom, proudly!

Everything of this world is temporary but everything of the next is forever. What we give up; we place up in Heaven; what we discard; we keep; what is given up in this life; we store up for the next. Even a cup of water given from right motives has rewards. “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me” <sup>Matthew 25:40</sup>.

We take nothing out of this world, but we can send it on ahead by sharing it with others today! When love is in our heart, we consider the feelings of others in our company. We feel sorry for them if they are going through a difficult situation. We should put ourselves in their position before making comments we later regret.

We all act natural around the home—and it should be natural for us to treat everyone in the home with kindness, love, and consideration—always!

Love does not embarrass others or make them feel uncomfortable. No one wants to be embarrassed or feel uncomfortable—and we go out of our way to avoid those who make us feel self-conscious. If we have love in our heart, we think of the other person's feelings and will not say anything that might humiliate them.

Those who feel uncomfortable around us would hardly think we love them. If divine love is in our heart, we will not want to tear down anything that has taken a long time to build—a loving relationship with our brothers and sisters.

We often think that those who are embarrassed by what we said are *too sensitive*—we try to avoid responsibility. Love in a relationship is fragile and can easily be destroyed by a thoughtless comment. <sup>1</sup> Corinthians 13:3 “*Though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.*”

If we make *anyone* feel uncomfortable, we have *not* followed—NLT Matthew 7:12 “*Do for others what you would like them to do for you*”—which is making you feel *wanted, loved, and appreciated*.

If we treat our brothers and sisters as *we* want to be treated—it “*Is a summary of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.*” It answers—*What’s in your heart?*

Our *behavior* toward others *witnesses* for the Lord Jesus. An act of *kindness* toward someone is how that person *sees* the love of God in action. <sup>1</sup> John 4:8 “*He that loveth not—knoweth not God; for God is love.*” When we *love* someone, we do *not* embarrass them but do everything possible to make them feel comfortable.

Satan makes it easy to use *words that wound* without thinking how those words might be taken. It is always the *right* time to <sup>James 1:19</sup> “*Be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.*” Divine love *builds*—thoughtless remarks can *destroy*.

Love between others can be *shattered* by one unguarded remark. It can take *years* to rebuild the relationship. When God has revealed the need for a change in us, we should *make* the change and ask Him to help us be more considerate.

Instead of thinking the other person needs to *lighten up*—we should *wake up* to how such remarks can cut deep into another. It is always much different when *we* are on the *receiving* end of thoughtless remarks.

Not many embarrass those who can embarrass them *back*—we *pick* our targets, unfortunately. Not many embarrass their *employer* or those they

*love*. People who pick on others—carefully *choose* their subjects.

When the love of Christ is in our heart, His Holy Spirit enables us to make others feel comfortable in our presence.

A good self-test is: What do we *say* about someone when they are not present? Jesus spoke the *truth in love* and never embarrassed those in His company.

Jesus made the *lonely* and *forgotten* feel *important* and *loved*. Jesus made *some* feel very uncomfortable because they *needed* a spiritual *lesson* on forgiveness, compassion, and divine love. <sup>John 8:7</sup> “*He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.*”

Jesus called them “*Hypocrites!*” <sup>Matthew 23:27</sup>, because they *looked* religious *outwardly* but had *no* love *inwardly*—they were arrogant and proud. What was in their heart, Jesus said: *Everything that is unclean*. They felt uncomfortable by His *words* because they were statements of *facts!*

Jesus encouraged the *discouraged*; and helped the *hurting* with words of *understanding, forgiveness, and hope*. He said to the woman <sup>Luke 8:48</sup> “*Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.*”

If there is love in our heart, we will do whatever we *can* to avoid embarrassing someone. It is what we want *them* to do for *us!*

Love *cares* enough to make someone feel relaxed and at ease. If we have divine *love* in our heart, we will not *add* to someone’s difficulties.

When there is love in our heart we *help* others—in whatever way possible. Sometimes it is just *listening* to someone going through a tough time. We can say: *I’ll pray with you about this*. We try to *calm* their concerns: *God will give you His peace*, we assure them.

At times we do not know *what* to say; or do not know *how* to help, but God will give us the *right* words at the *right* time—we just need to *ask*

for His help. If we want to be a *light* for Christ and *salt* to preserve His Truth, we can begin having divine *love in our heart* toward everyone—and making them feel at ease and relaxed in our presence.

In a world full of resentment, bitterness, and anger toward others, *our* light can be a brilliant *beam* to someone who needs encouragement. <sup>1</sup> John 4:7 “*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.*”

*What’s in your heart?* Is a very important question to ask ourselves because having love in our heart means we feel *sorry* for others and having compassion for someone who has made a mistake or embarrassed themselves. We should always be aware of their feelings when there is *potential* for them feeling uncomfortable.

Love is always ready to *defend* others and will do everything possible to avoid humiliating them. <sup>1</sup> John 4:10 “*In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.* <sup>11</sup> *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*”

If we truly love others, we will go the *second* mile; we will make the *extra* effort; or we will do the *right* thing so that someone else is *not* embarrassed. <sup>1</sup> John 4:12 “*If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.*”

*What’s in your heart?*—Is it the love of God that wants to make someone feel wanted, needed, and loved? It is what we want *others* to consider when *we* are facing a difficult time and need a little encouragement!

*What’s in your heart?*—may it be the *love and compassion* for others *Jesus* showed!



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