

No Love for the Lord? Anathema!

1 Corinthians 16:22

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Anathema - ἀνάθεμα - "someone or something subject to God's wrath or His curse."

1 Corinthians 16:19-24 The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord.²⁰ All the brothers send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.²¹ I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand.²² **If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed.** Our Lord, come!²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.²⁴ My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

1 Corinthians 1:30-31 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,³¹ so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 10:31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God.**

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I. What does it mean to love Christ?

- **Agape** – emphasizes the volitional component of love
- **Phileo** – emphasizes the emotional component of love¹
- **Storge** – is love between family members.
- **Eros** – is sexual love.

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How do you feel about Jesus Christ?

- Do you have affection towards Him?
- How often do you think of Him?
- How much do you admire Him?
- How much do you enjoy being with Him?
- How much do you seek fellowship with Him and delight in it?
- How much do you appreciate Him, what He has done and continues to do for you?
- How willing are you to live for Him?
- Do you think about what He loves in order to do that thing for His sake?
- Does it bring you joy to do what pleases Him?

¹ Bibleworks 10, Friberg Lexicon. φιλέω impf. ἐφίλου; 1aor. ἐφίλησα; pf. πεφίληκα; (1) love, as devotion based in the emotions, often distinguished from ἀγαπάω (love),

Matthew 10:37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me **is not worthy of me.**

Matthew 22:37-38 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with **all** your heart and with **all** your soul and with **all** your mind. ³⁸ **This is the great and first commandment.**

1 Corinthians 16:22 If anyone has no love (φιλεῖ) for the Lord, let him be accursed.

II. Why is it important to love Jesus Christ?

A. Without love for Christ there is no salvation

Matthew 16:24-25 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life **for my sake** will find it.

John 8:42 Jesus said to them, "**If God were your Father, you would love me**, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me.

John 14:23-24 Jesus answered 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. ²⁴ **Whoever does not love me does not keep my words.** And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

2 Thessalonians 2:8-12 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. ⁹ The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, ¹⁰ and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because **they refused to love the truth** and so be saved. ¹¹ Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, ¹² in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but **had pleasure in unrighteousness.**

B. Without loving Christ, there is no victorious life

John 21:15-16 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, **do you love me** more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that **I love you.**" He said to him, "Feed my lambs."¹⁶ He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, **do you love me?**" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that **I love you.**" He said to him, "Tend my sheep."

John 21:17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, **do you love me?**" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that **I love you.**" Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

2 Timothy 4:7-8 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also **to all who have loved his appearing.**

Ephesians 6:24 Grace be with all **who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.**

III. How can we learn to love Christ?

John 3:19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.

A. Ask God to give you love for Christ.

1 John 4:9-10 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4:19 We love because he first loved us.

2 Corinthians 4:3-6 ³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

B. Strive to know Christ

Philippians 3:8-11 ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Philippians 1:21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Galatians 2:20 ... It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

C. Think about Christ

Hebrews 12:2-3 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

D. Live for Christ

Romans 12:1-2 ¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what **is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.**

There is nothing more joyful than giving your best to someone you love.

John 14:13-15 Whatever you ask **in my name**, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me anything **in my name**, I will do it. ¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

Questions for Prayer

- Do you have Christ?
- Do you know Christ? (How does this work in practice?)
- Do you think of Christ?
- Are you living for Christ?