



# Cherreguine Bible Doctrine Ministries

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## PEOPLE TESTING (ANTAGONISM)

The spiritual adult believer developed personal love toward God while in the stage of spiritual self-esteem. In the spiritual autonomy, through consistent intake of Bible doctrine and spiritual exercises he will develop impersonal love toward all man. The danger lies when he misdirected personal love toward man instead toward God or when he becomes antagonistic toward the brethren or others.

Like personal love, antagonism can also cause the believer to surrender his control of his life to someone else. Any time the believer reacts to people with bitterness, vindictiveness, hatred, jealousy, merciless or unforgiving, he immediately grants others control over his life. In an irrational attempt to regain control, he may vent his anger in gossip, maligning, false accusation or physical violence. By attacking the person to whom he surrendered his happiness, the believer attacks his own happiness. Each antagonistic reaction carries him deeper into self – induced misery.

When detestable personality controls a believer's life, whether or not they want control or even realize they have such influence, he blames them for his misery. Blaming others for self-made misery cuts off the possibility of divine solution and under the law of volitional responsibility intensifies his suffering.

With advancing spiritual growth, the believer becomes aware of this pattern of unhappiness. He uses rebound and other divine solutions, especially the virtue impersonal love, in which the believer's own inner strength is the basis for his toleration of others. Impersonal love is crystallized as an active component of virtue-love only after the believer has attained spiritual autonomy.

The solution to all momentum testing is the believer's happiness. Happiness as a problem-solving device is the sole monopoly of God and His plan for the imperfect man. The believer cannot depend on people for happiness but he must depend completely on God. The believer must follow divine protocol to avoid undue influence from those he loves and to keep from falling into hatred toward those who irritate him.

Spiritual momentum in the protocol plan of God will bring the believer to spiritual autonomy where his genuine happiness & contentment is improved and stabilized. God is bringing him to a situation where he will realize that impersonal love in no way can serve as a solution to his problems with people.

Matthew 5:44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you

Matthew 10:37-38

"He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

Mark 12:30-31

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with your entire mind, and with all your strength. "The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

There is no contradiction or confusion in the above-mentioned verses under the protocol plan of God. Personal love toward man must be put under the strength of personal love toward God expressed in impersonal love toward man. Virtue personal love is directed toward God, and He alone is the first love of the believer. Believers are mandated to love the unlovable with virtue impersonal love. This is possible only under spiritual maturity.

## **PEOPLE TESTING**

(MISDIRECTED PERSONAL LOVE)

People testing challenge the believer from two antithetical directions:

- Approbation
- Antagonism

In either case, the danger lies in giving up or abandoning spiritual autonomy and turning over the control of his life to someone he loves who inordinately influence his life and happiness, or someone he hates.

Personal love in the human race is virtue dependent. Lacking inherent virtue, it relies on the integrity of the impersonal love as a problem-solving device. This dependence on virtue love makes every personal love relationship a test of the believer's faithfulness to divine priorities. Will he overemphasize the object of love to the point of compromising his personal sense of destiny in the Protocol Plan of God? Will he integrate his human relationships into a consistent Christian life?

Personal love emphasizes the object of love, but if a believer elevates the human object of his love above God, he fails the people test. In his desire to please the woman he loves, a man may turn over control of his life to her. He makes himself a slave, living by her capriciousness rather than by the strength of his own soul. Ironically, as a slave he renounces all possibility of pleasing her. He ceases to be the man to whom she originally was attracted.

The same may be true of a woman. Although a wife lives under her husband's authority, she should not renounce her responsibility for her own life out of her desire to please him. Personal love does not require either party to surrender his or her autonomy to the other person. Both the subject and object must maintain integrity and contribute virtue love.

The key for passing the people test is that people's emphasis must not take precedence over God's emphasis. Therefore, among the many legitimate activities and involvement in the saint's life, Bible doctrine must receive first priority. Human relationships are important in any normal life, but the Christian's relationship with God in the divine sphere enables human personal love to succeed. The believer must learn to say no when even legitimate activities challenge the top priority of doctrine.

A believer may make his own choices in the selection of his friends and loved ones. But thereafter they will make many decisions for him unless he maintains his spiritual autonomy (Proverbs 13:20).

Personal love is harmless looking test in spiritual advancement. Personal love is problem-manufacturing device with no inherent problem-solving capacity. When a believer reveal his soul to someone he loves, the intimacy between one imperfect person and another creates vulnerability to intense suffering. Some of the greatest pains and anguish in life comes from human personal love. Personal love can avoid becoming misery and slavery only when accompanied by the virtue of the impersonal love. Spiritual autonomy, therefore, is the inner strength that makes personal love a marvelous blessing.

When it comes to personal love, the ultimate victor could become the most miserable fellow, whenever he enslaves himself to a person for the sake of gaining approbation. God alone deserves to be the top priority of the believer and nothing should ever take His place in our lives. Under spiritual self-esteem the believer's personal love toward God is already defined, in spiritual autonomy, its reality in the believer's life will be tested.