

This is love, that we should walk after his commandments. 2 John 6 (R.V.)

Here is a solution to many difficulties, and given so easily and naturally by this beloved elder to the elect lady and her children. He had been laying much emphasis on truth, and combining truth and love in an exquisite unity. Probably we can never love perfectly, till we are perfectly true. If you examine yourself in the feelings of distance and dislike which you have towards some individual, it is almost certain that you will come on some want of transparency and sincerity in your dealings with him. It is also the case that if we put away all insincerity, and want of consecration, as between us and God, we shall come to love God more perfectly.

What deep, sweet rhythm of meaning there is in the first three verses of this letter! One reads them over and over again. Oh that grace, mercy, and peace, may be with us, from God the Father, and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

The difficulty that you feel is that you do not love enough. You would like to love with a strong, undying flame, burning steadily towards Jesus Christ, cleansing you with its heat, constraining you with its love. But perhaps you fail to distinguish between love and the emotion of love. They are not the same. We may love without being directly conscious of love, or being able to estimate its strength and passion. Here is the solution to many of our questionings: They love who obey.

It is recorded of Dr. Chalmers that when a Scotch girl applied to be admitted to the sacrament, her testimony was so halting that it seemed as though she must stand back; but as she was leaving his room she turned back and said, "I canna speak for the Lord Jesus, but I could dee for Him."

你們若照祂的命令行，這就是愛。 約貳6

這位受愛戴的長老，很輕易且自然地向被揀選的太太和她的兒女，提出解決許多難題的方案。他已經非常強調真理，將真理和愛很精巧地結合在一起。在我們完全真誠之前，我們也許無法愛得完全。倘若你察驗自己對某人疏遠和厭惡的感覺，那麼你幾乎可以肯定地發現自己對他多少缺乏坦誠。同樣，在我們和神之間，當我們摒棄一切的不真誠和缺乏奉獻的心志，我們就可以更完全地愛神。

這卷書信前三節裡有何等深刻、親切規律的意義！人一再誦讀這幾節經文。哦，恩典、憐憫、平安，從父神和他兒子耶穌基督，在真理和愛心上必常與我們同在(3節)！

你感覺到難處是你愛得不夠。你想要以堅強不死、持續燃燒的火愛耶穌基督，這愛的火熱潔淨你，並約束你。但或許你無法分辨「愛」與「愛的情緒」的不同。「愛」與「愛的情緒」兩者並不相同。我們可以愛而沒有直接感覺到愛，也不能估計愛的強度和熱情。這裡有我們許多疑問的答案：人順從，他就愛。(本節及約壹五3, 約十四15, 21)。[註1]

有一則關於查麥士博士[註2]的記載，當一個蘇格蘭女孩申請獲得准許領聖餐，她的見證結結巴巴，以至她必須往後退；但在離開他的辦公室時，她轉過身來說：「我雖不..能..為主耶穌..說..話，但我可以為..祂..死。」

[註1] 愛神的，就必順從神。或說，順從神就是愛神。順從是跟著愛來的。你要顯示愛神，只要順從，不必太注意愛的感覺。

[註2] 查麥士Thomas Chalmers, 1780-1847, 愛丁堡大學神學教授，蘇格蘭自由教會的創始者，也是數學家、政治經濟學家。