

February 11, 2008

TURN A CORNER!

One way or another, God made men love to love! If they don't love God, then, with all their hearts, souls, strength and minds they'll spend that love on themselves and on lesser, cheaper love-objects.

Many a man says, by inference, "I'm glad to be known as a Christian, but I want to make my own decisions. I'll go to church, I'll even do church work, but don't get any closer to me than that...."

This fellow keeps jockeying for position to keep his Self intact and unbowed. "Entertain me – make me laugh, make me cry – but don't make me give too much of myself." And he surrenders himself instead to his little opinions and activities and familiar pleasures and habits....

Ego, pride, Self – that rival of God which is the ultimate idol – stiffarms not only God but love and joy and everything great....

Or change the metaphor. A man who prioritizes himself above God is a cut plant: he's withered, drying, dying. He may be the big joker who knows everybody and has a thousand ready comments on news, weather and sports; or he may be a loser–withdrawn, insecure, isolated. In either case he's not well attached to the Source.

What happens to him? His manhood doesn't develop; he shrivels into a wimp. He has little or no courage against sexual lusts, greed for money, jealousy, intemperance, arrogance. God's law says "Thou shalt not" – but he says, "Sorry, but I'm only human. Gimme a break."

No guts, no glory.

What happens to a man who loves God? In times of temptation he hears God's love say to him, "*I won't let you.*" And the man believes that and stands tall. The law condemns us because we break it. God's love builds strength into us so that we won't break it.

Oh, my friend, love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind!