

John 14:15

If you love Me, keep My commandments.

When you read today's verse, have you ever considered what the opposite would be or look like? Jesus said: *If you love Me, keep My commandments.* And the opposite would be, **If you hate Me then don't keep My commandments.**

Looking at the world around us, it's obvious that so many do not love the Lord, because they willfully and outright do not keep His commandments, nor do they want to. They approve of abortion, same sex marriage, taking advantage of others, hatred towards others, etc.... They want their own way and if God doesn't like it, too bad, because they think they know better than God. As Christians we despise those things, because we know that God does, and we know that His ways are the right and best way, and His ways are for our protection and because He loves us.

So today, ask yourself, "Which am I doing?", not even considering the first half of each one, (*If you love or hate*) but rather ask yourself honestly, are you keeping Jesus' commandments or are you not keeping Jesus' commandments? There is no, "Well, I do some of both." if that's your answer, then does that mean that you love Jesus sometimes, and other times you hate Jesus?

Now, before you freak out, remember *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God Romans 3:23* and just because we do sin, it doesn't mean we don't love the Lord, because your love for the Lord will show when you choose to repent after you do fall into sin, and the key word is "Fall". I remember pastor Bob Coy once said that Grace is for falling into, not jumping into, meaning we all "fall" into sin (*fall short*), but we should not "jump" into sin, which would be to do it willfully.

† **Hebrews 10:26** *For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins* (underlined for emphasis)

Or as the NLT puts it:

† **Hebrews 10:26 (NLT2)** *Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received knowledge of the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice that will cover these sins.* (underlined for emphasis)

We should never think, "Well, I know this is wrong and is a sin, but after I'm done I'll ask Jesus to forgive me and everything will be cool." No, no, no, that is when you have actually decided that "**If you hate Me then don't keep My commandments.**" Meaning you have actually chosen not to love the Lord, because you refuse to keep His commandments on purpose, not because it's a struggle that you have, or not because you wrestled with it for a long time and fell

into sin, but you jumped in with both feet running as fast as you can. When you do that, the tendency is to do it over and over, and the more you do it, the less guilty you feel and the further away from the Lord you put yourself.

It would be like a man telling his wife that he loved her, but then, knowingly went out and committed adultery with another woman, thinking that she would forgive him. It would be willfully committing spiritual adultery against the Lord.

Also, we have to remember that we can't try to keep the Lord's commandments to earn His love, because there is nothing you can do to earn His love.

† **Song of Songs 8:7** *Many waters cannot quench love, Nor can the floods drown it. If a man would give for love All the wealth of his house, It would be utterly despised.*

Just simply love the Lord because He loves you, and if you truly do love Him, you will find yourself sinning less and less, enjoying keeping His commandments, and being more like Jesus, walking in His love.

† **1 John 4:19** *We love Him because He first loved us.*