

of us it is really a sweet morsel, a very foretaste of divine rapture. Then why not be honest and thank God that we are so favored, and be glad that we are accounted worthy to receive a word of praise, a smile of approval, a message of appreciation ?

The Standard of human Friendship

IN a true friendship there is no thought of service as service, or of duty as duty. That pure and unselfish love, which is the soul of all friendship makes service of any form or in any direction, an unalloyed pleasure. The question never is, What does my friend require of me ? but it always is, What can I do for my friend ? Not, How much must I give to my friend ? but rather, How much will my friend consent to receive from me ?

Nor is there any thought of laying a friend under obligation by any service performed for him. We only love him the more for the enjoyed privilege of doing for him. Moreover, there is no special fear on our part that we shall fail in proving our friendship for a real friend or that we shall offend him by any inevitable lack of faithful service towards him. We do not, in fact, worry over the details of duty towards a friend ; for we know that we love him, and we are sure that fact carries everything with it, since " love is the fulfillment of the law."

Nor do we worry over our friend's possible understanding and judgment of us ; for " there is no fear in love ; but perfect love casteth out fear, because fear hath punishment ; and he that feareth is not made perfect in love." And this standard of human friendship is pointed out to us by God as the pattern of the relation He desires to have between us and Himself.

