

love of God, that we keep his commandments." As we are now treating of love to God, we would not be understood in that vague sense, in which many speak of the love of God. For many speak of the mercy and love of God only in a general point of view, knowing no more and scarcely that; as if all the human race had it, and could exercise it at pleasure. No, brethren, we speak of those, and to those, that can say from heartfelt experience, "We love him, because he first loved us." "He hath loved me with an everlasting love, therefore with loving kindness hath he drawn me;" or, as cited above, "For God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses and sins," &c. We speak of those who see the purposes of God's love and grace to be eternal: "According to his own purpose and grace," &c. "Who are the called according to his purpose." "Because God hath chosen us from the beginning unto salvation," &c. This is done in a way calculated to secure the rights of the divine government, and proves that it can be just for God to justify the ungodly sinner that believeth in Jesus.—True believers have discovered that they were ruined by the transgression of one, namely Adam, and that there was no other name given under Heaven whereby they could be saved, but by the gift of God's eternal love, the LORD JESUS CHRIST. They have felt the love of God shed abroad in their hearts, by the HOLY SPIRIT, in a way sovereignly free and infinitely glorious; so that all the powers and faculties of their souls have gotten a new direction, that is, to love the LORD their God supremely; that is to say, for his own infinite excellencies. But we would not wish to have you think that supreme love can exist in the breast of man, without a consideration of what God is communicatively, or, of good received.—Brethren, we think, where this holy love is shed abroad in the heart, the character of God, as revealed in the Scriptures, must be loved and adored; and all Scripture, whether doctrinal, experimental or practical, will be highly, very highly prized. It will be "a light to your feet, and a lantern to your path." It will be "sweeter to your taste than honey or the honey comb." The law of his mouth will be better than thousands of gold and silver. According to this blessed word, you will not only love the Lord, but you will love all that bear his blessed image, and that in proportion to the degree of the Divine image they bear; or as his truth dwells in them, in the love of it, of whatever sect, party, or name they