

Do you believe the Lord could love you when you were wicked? If He could not, then would you never be loved by Him. What a consolation, when we are truly humbled on account of our faults and the wickedness of our hearts, to know that God loves us tenderly in spite of it all. That is grace, and it is that which makes us hate the evil, that which gives us by grace new strength against it. But it is necessary that we should realize that we are wicked, without strength, that all is grace, that we need this grace and that we are wholly cast upon God, who did not spare His Son for us when we were sinners.

Let me ask you again, do you believe that the good and tender Saviour could love you when you were a sinner? That is grace, that is the gospel; the law demands that we should as men be righteous and perfect, grace comes to us when we are not so, and when we are lost. Think of that, even for power, that the love of God is for those who need it, who have neither righteousness, nor power to acquire it. That is your case, you are already lost and far from God; you have no power in yourself to change your evil nature—you must look to Jesus who loves us, when we have nothing good in ourselves. Read the life of Jesus and see if it was anything but love, even for those who were unworthy and sinners.

It is of this that you should think, to know the love of God for you, such as you are. Go, then, to the gracious Saviour and do so. It may be you may not apparently find all at the moment just as you might wish, but the Lord gives us to know what we are.