

love? How does love become hatred in the world of sin, so that men think they love just when they bitterly hate? A mother blinded by vanity spoils her child, flatters its faults, cherishes all the germs of evil and speaks of love! Or one man helps another to sin, that he may be helped in his turn, shuts his eyes when he should have opened them, is silent when he should have spoken, and talks of love. Or the white of truth and the black of lying are mingled into a disagreeable grey, all sacred enthusiasm for justice, all serious horror at injustice is avoided, yet love is spoken of. True love is strong and holy, it is the test of all love that it rejoices in the truth. And the God who has been manifested to you in the New Testament as the God of love, is also the jealous God spoken of in the Old Testament. "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts." Yes, the God of love hates and punishes evil. That is the thought which terrifies the weaklings who make love mean what they wish, but are not able to twist and turn words about God's wrath: fleeing before this thought they make a morality for themselves by removing the normal standard from the object to be measured. I remember a bold saying of your father, who, while yet on earth, declared: "If I did not recognise in the Scriptures and in conscience the voice of God telling me, and having a right to tell me, what to do and what to leave undone, I should be inclined to be an immoral man, I should then at least deceive no one."