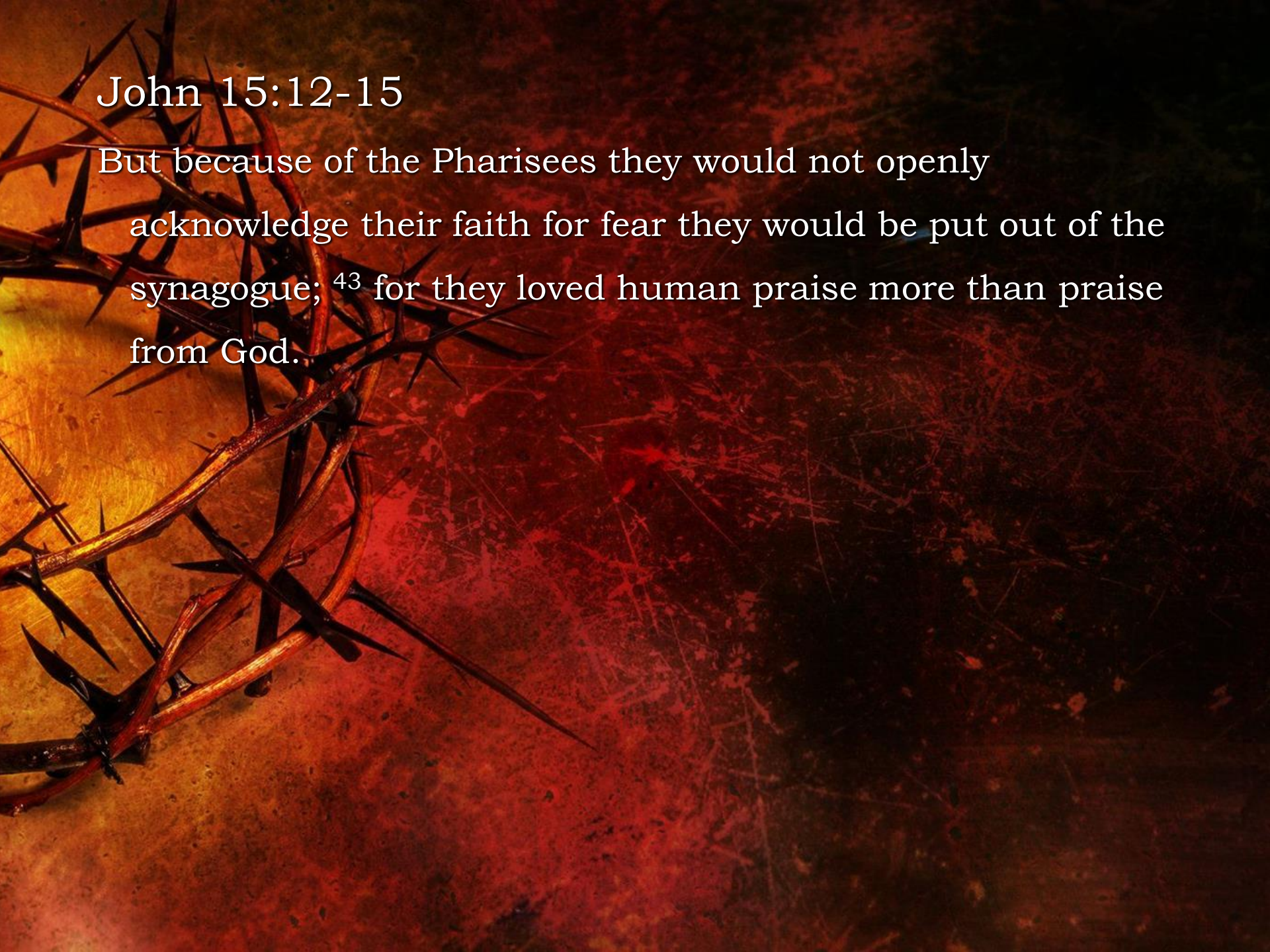


## John 15:12-15

But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; <sup>43</sup> for they loved human praise more than praise from God.



A crown of thorns is positioned on the left side of the image, set against a dark red, textured background. The thorns are dark brown and sharp, with some lighter brown stems. The overall lighting is dramatic, with a warm glow on the left side.

## 2 Timothy 3:2-5

<sup>2</sup> People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful (*Imposter*), proud (*Disdainful*), abusive (*Blasphemer*), disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> without love (*Unaffectionate*), unforgiving (*No Truce*), slanderous (*Accusing Falsely*), without self-control, brutal (*Untamed*), not lovers of the good (*Hostile to things of God*), <sup>4</sup> treacherous, rash (*Reckless*), conceited (*Puffed Up*), lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— <sup>5</sup> having a form of godliness but denying its power.

*(Italic is alternate Greek definition)*

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## Luke 11:42-44

<sup>42</sup> “Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.

<sup>43</sup> “Woe to you Pharisees, because you love the most important seats in the synagogues and respectful greetings in the marketplaces.

<sup>44</sup> “Woe to you, because you are like unmarked graves, which people walk over without knowing it.”

## 2 Timothy 3:2-5

<sup>2</sup> People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, <sup>4</sup> treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— <sup>5</sup> having a form of godliness but denying its power.

## 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is patience, kind, content, humble, meek, acts appropriately, unselfish, easy-going, merciful, rejoices in truth, protects trusts, hopes, perseveres

A crown of thorns, made of dark, sharp, and intertwined branches, is positioned on the left side of the image. The background is a dark, textured surface with a gradient from deep red to black, suggesting a metallic or stone surface. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the sharp points of the thorns.

# God's Desire and Devotion

Creates

Reveals

Rejoices

Grieves

Disciplines

A crown of thorns is positioned on the left side of the image, set against a dark red, textured background. The thorns are dark brown and sharp, with some lighter brown wood visible. The background has a mottled, almost marbled appearance with some lighter red and orange tones.

## 1 John 4:9-10

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

A crown of thorns, made of dark, sharp, and intertwined branches, is positioned on the left side of the image. The background is a dark, textured red surface with some lighter, yellowish-brown areas, possibly representing a wooden floor or a similar material. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the sharp points of the thorns.

Love depends on the nature of the lover rather than that of the beloved.

Jesus loves because He is a loving person, not because he found attractive qualities in those he loved.

L. Morris



## Love: an operational definition

Seeking and Doing Good for the Loved One

### Parameters of Love:

Love is not the same as Pleasing

Love is not the same as Affection

Love is not the same as Feeling Loved

Love is a function of the lover not the experience of the  
loved person

The Absence of love is a function of the non-lover

Absence of love impacts but does not define a person

Love is not earned cannot be earned but is a gift

Dr. D. Green



A crown of thorns is positioned on the left side of the image, set against a dark, textured background with a reddish-brown hue. The thorns are sharp and intertwined, creating a complex, circular shape. The lighting is dramatic, with a bright yellow light source on the left casting a glow on the thorns and the background.

# Humanity's Higher Calling

We are the:

Objects

Recipients

Vessel

of God's Desire and Devotion

A crown of thorns is positioned on the left side of the image, set against a dark, textured red background. The thorns are dark brown and sharp, with some lighter brown stems visible. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the thorns and the background.

## 1 John 4:9-11

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

A crown of thorns, made of dark, sharp, and intertwined branches, is positioned on the left side of the image. The background is a dark, textured red surface with a subtle gradient and some light reflections. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

## 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

<sup>14</sup> For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

<sup>15</sup> And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

A crown of thorns, made of dark, sharp, and intertwined branches, is positioned on the left side of the image. The background is a dark, textured red surface with a subtle gradient and some light reflections. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.


## Galatians 5:5-6

<sup>5</sup> For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. <sup>6</sup> For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

A crown of thorns, made of several intertwined, sharp, brown branches, is positioned on the left side of the image. The background is a dark, textured surface with a gradient from deep red to black, suggesting a stone or metal surface. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the sharp points of the thorns.


## John 15:8-10

<sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. <sup>9</sup> "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.

A crown of thorns is positioned on the left side of the image, set against a dark, textured red background. The thorns are dark brown and sharp, with some lighter brown stems visible. The overall lighting is dramatic, with a warm glow on the left side.

## Romans 13:8-10

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

A crown of thorns is positioned on the left side of the image, set against a dark, textured red background. The thorns are dark brown and sharp, with some catching the light. The overall mood is somber and reflective.

## Proverbs 3:11-12

<sup>11</sup> My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline, and do not resent his rebuke, <sup>12</sup> because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.

A crown of thorns is positioned on the left side of the image, set against a dark, textured red background. The thorns are dark brown and sharp, with some lighter brown sections where they are bound together. The lighting is dramatic, with a bright yellowish-gold glow emanating from the left, highlighting the texture of the thorns and the background.

## Mark 10:21-22

<sup>21</sup> Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

<sup>22</sup> At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.



A crown of thorns is positioned on the left side of the image, set against a dark, textured red background. The thorns are dark brown and sharp, with some lighter brown highlights. The overall lighting is dramatic, with a warm glow on the left side.

## Revelation 3:19-22

<sup>19</sup> Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. <sup>20</sup> Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

<sup>21</sup> To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. <sup>22</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

A crown of thorns is positioned on the left side of the image, set against a dark, textured red background. The thorns are dark brown and sharp, with some lighter brown stems. The overall lighting is dramatic, with a warm glow on the left side.

## Colossians 3:12-14

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.