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From the Desk of Rev. Chuck

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Dear Friends,

Recently I found myself discussing spiritual aspects of life with a young man waiting for his wife at a doctors office. He wanted to know my take on a statement he heard that has caused him some distress. The statement he had trouble with was: "Love God and do what you want." So I asked him what he thought about that statement. It went something like this:

"I just don't get how anyone can say 'Love God and then do as you please.' It doesn't make sense to me. After all, there are too many people in this world who say they love God and do as they please, causing God to get even madder."

At that point I asked him what it meant to love God. He said, "Loving God is doing God's will, to fight all the evil that people are doing because they do what they please." Then I asked him if he really understood the lesson given by Jesus when he said to love God with all your heart and soul, and your neighbor as yourself. Then he replied, "Oh, I can't love anyone that is evil in the eyes of God."

Wow, there was no getting through to him, he was dead set in his belief about people doing as they please as being evil. He never really understood what loving God really meant and how that divine love, when acted upon and allowed to be expressed, can bring us many blessings because we are allow to do as we please. It's free will.

Now, the young man did make a valid point when he said that loving God was doing God's will. Jesus made the same point time and time again, only he didn't see it as fighting evil in the world. He saw it as a means of teaching the people to love and not hate, to mend and not break, to build and not destroy.

Jesus loved God with all his heart and soul and went on to do as he pleased as he demonstrated and taught that God is love, unconditional and all

encompassing. God's will is for the demonstration and manifestation of Absolute Good. When you love God you are living a life that says, "Have your way with me, Lord. Have your way in me. Have your way in my thoughts, my actions, my feelings, and in my decisions." You live a life that knows the true realization that says, "Thy will be done."

To the disapproval of the religious leaders of the temple and the keeps of the Mosaic Law, Jesus was seen as an outcast, someone to be stopped because he was teaching a very different type of God. A God of love, not hate. One that constantly forgives and requires no payment in the form of sacrifice. Jesus lived that ideal every day of his life, regardless of what they thought or said about him. He did as he pleased, because doing so allowed him to show how God's love healed every aspect of ones' life.

One of the greatest parables that Jesus gave, was the Parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32. Yes, the son did as he pleased. But he returned to his father, after he realized his love for his father was far better than the life he was now living. You can't love God and do negative things that are a detriment to your spiritual well-being. It doesn't work that way. But when you allow divine love to be the energy that is projected out into your world, all your actions are blessed.

Unity teaches that love is a divine activity. It is a cosmic force, a spiritual gift. It is a part of our life just as the ocean is part of the fish. As long as the fish swims in the ocean, the ocean sustains it and nurtures it and renews it because the fish is taking in the ocean for life and renewal. The fish is part of the ocean, and the ocean is part of the fish.

Love is God's ocean, and we live and move and have our being in that ocean. Love is God's energy, and when we let love direct us, we let God direct us and we become part of the divine energy of God. Loving God and doing as you please can also be taken as: Love God and do no harm, because you can't love God and harm anything.

Happy Thanksgiving!