

Chapter 6:

The Judgment of Love

If there is one lens through which all scripture, all theology, and all experience must be judged, it is love. For God is love. Not sometimes, not occasionally, not when it fits our doctrines—always.

This simple truth becomes the key that unlocks the entire story of faith. If an action, a command, or a teaching does not breathe love, then it cannot reflect God's heart. If it reeks of hate, vengeance, or cruelty, it must be a projection of human misunderstanding. Love is the measure. Love is the standard. Love is the judgment.

This is not a sentimental love, soft and shallow. It is a love fierce enough to lay down power, humble enough to wash feet, strong enough to absorb violence without returning it. It is a love that forgives when betrayed, welcomes when excluded, and weeps when others weep.

When Abraham raised the knife, he thought obedience was the highest form of faith. But God revealed that love outranks obedience. The ram in the thicket was more than provision; it was a declaration: I do not delight in blood. I delight in mercy.

Later, the prophets would echo this: "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." Jesus would embody it: "By this everyone will know you are my disciples, if you love one another." Paul would confirm it: "The greatest of these is love." Again, the Spirit reminds us—love is the heartbeat of God.

So, when we encounter passages of violence, laws of exclusion, or teachings that dehumanize, we must ask: Does this align with love? If not, then we are free—even compelled—to say, this is not the final word of God. The final word of God is Christ. And Christ is love.

Love is not the soft option; it is the truest option. It is the most demanding path, the most refining fire, the costliest obedience. But it is also the only way that reveals the face of God.

Journal Prompts

- 1.) How do you typically measure whether something is from God—by tradition, authority, scripture, or love?
- 2.) What does it mean to you that love—not obedience, not sacrifice—is the final judgment of truth?
- 3.) Have you ever experienced a situation where obedience to rules conflicted with the call to

love? Which did you follow?

4.) How might your reading of the Bible change if you tested every passage through the lens of love?

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