

John 5:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.

Analysis

Jesus' penetrating diagnosis—"ye have not the love of God in you"—identifies the core problem. He's not saying they don't love God, but that God's love is absent from them (objective genitive). Without receiving and being transformed by God's love, they cannot recognize or receive His Son. Love for God flows from experiencing His love.

Historical Context

The Pharisees claimed devotion to God through strict law observance, yet Jesus exposes their heart condition. External compliance without internal transformation by God's love produces only religion, not relationship.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does experiencing God's love enable us to recognize and receive Christ?

2. What is the difference between religious devotion and having 'the love of God' within us?

Interlinear Text

ἀλλ' ἔγνωκα ὑμᾶς ὅτι τὴν ἀγάπην τοῦ Θεοῦ οὐκ
But I know you that the love of God not
G235 G1097 G5209 G3754 G3588 G26 G3588 G2316 G3756

ἔχετε ἐν ἔαυτοῖς
ye have in you
G2192 G1722 G1438

Additional Cross-References

1 John 4:20 (Love): If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

1 John 3:17 (Love): But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

1 John 2:15 (Love): Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

John 2:25 (Parallel theme): And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.