

# Luke 7:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.

## Analysis

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Jesus's question: 'Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?' (Greek 'tis oun autōn pleion agapēsei auton'). The answer is obvious—greater forgiveness produces greater love. Simon responds correctly: 'I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most' (Greek 'hupolambanō hoti hō to pleion echarisato'). The tentative 'I suppose' (hupolambanō) suggests Simon senses the trap. Jesus confirms: 'Thou hast rightly judged' (Greek 'orthōs ekrinas'). The principle: love corresponds to recognized forgiveness. Those aware of great forgiveness love greatly; those minimizing their sin love minimally. First John 4:19 states 'We love him, because he first loved us.' Our love responds to His grace. Reformed theology recognizes that sanctification (growing in love for God) increases as we grasp justification (our complete forgiveness).

## Historical Context

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Jesus's pedagogical method—asking question, receiving answer, applying principle—follows rabbinic tradition. By making Simon state the principle, Jesus enabled self-awareness rather than imposing external judgment. Ancient honor culture made this approach face-saving while still making the point. For early church, this principle explained varied passion levels among believers—those who grasped their great forgiveness (like Paul, 'chief of sinners,' 1 Timothy 1:15) loved Christ intensely. Modern application includes deepening awareness of sin's magnitude to increase gratitude for grace.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does increased awareness of our forgiveness increase our love for Christ?
2. Why do some believers love Christ passionately while others seem lukewarm?
3. What practices help us grasp the magnitude of grace we've received?

## Interlinear Text

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ἀποκριθεὶς	δὲ	ὁ	Σίμων	εἶπεν	ὑπολαμβάνω	ὅτι	
answered	And		Simon	he said	I suppose	that	
G611	G1161	G3588	G4613	G2036	G5274	G3754	
ᾧ	τὸ	πλεῖον	ἐχαρίσατο	ὁ	δὲ	εἶπεν	αὐτῷ
he to whom		most	he forgave		And	he said	unto him
G3739	G3588	G4119	G5483	G3588	G1161	G2036	G846
Ὅρθῳς	ἔκρινας						
rightly	Thou hast						
G3723	G2919						

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