

# Concerning the Love of God

There are those who consent to seek after Christ, and for that reason embrace a perfect life. But they do not give up all self-interest, which still in some cases remains their chief interest. They follow Christ more for their own sake than for His. They accept only what they cannot avoid, or what is of strict obligation.

On the other hand, there are many souls who, urged on by the hope of salvation, but still more by the motive of love, are resolute in their determination to follow Christ in the Way of the Cross. They think neither of reward nor of their own merits, nor of the fatigues and sufferings that may accrue to them, their one object being to show Christ the fullness of their love, and to console His most Sacred Heart.

If the Cross comes to them in the shape of illness, if it is hidden under some employment that goes against their grain or is little adapted to their talents, they accept it in a spirit of humility. If it has all the appearance of being the result of forgetfulness or opposition from those around them, they recognize and accept it with all the submission of which their will is capable.

Sometimes it happens that, urged by a great love and zeal for souls, they have done what seemed to them best in such or such a circumstance, and things turn out differently from their expectations and there follows a whole train of humiliations and trials. These souls, moved solely by love, joyfully accept these unexpected consequences of their action, for in them they see the Cross: they worship it, offer it up, and use it to procure greater honor and glory for God. These are the souls that truly bear the Cross after Jesus Christ. Their interests and their gain are none other than love.

When a soul truly loves, that soul neither measures what it does nor weighs what it suffers; never does it seek for a reward, but only seeks that which it believes to be for God's greater glory. Such a soul never says 'enough' when labor or fatigue are in question. Because of the purity of its aim, whatever the result, that soul neither excuses itself nor protests its good intentions, its motive being love, its efforts and sufferings always giving glory to God. The soul is not troubled nor does it lose its peace of mind if it meets with contradiction or persecution or humiliation. Its sole motive is