



The Great Christian Paradox

“Simul Justus et Peccator” = Simultaneously Saint & Sinner – Martin Luther



Sinner

___ **Mt. 5:48** ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

___ **Mt. 12:36-37** ³⁶ But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. ³⁷ For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”

___ **Mt. 25:45** ⁴⁵ “He will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

___ **Jn. 13:34** ³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

___ **Ro. 3:10-12** ¹⁰ As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one; ¹¹ there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. ¹² All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.”

___ **Ro. 14:23** ²³ But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

___ **Eph. 5:3-5** ³ But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people. ⁴ Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. ⁵ For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

___ **Phil. 2:3-5** ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

___ **Jas. 1:26** ²⁶ If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.

___ **Jas. 4:17** ¹⁷ Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn’t do it, sins.

___ **1 Jn. 1:10** ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

Saint

___ **Ro. 3:24-25** ²⁴ and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—

___ **Ro. 6:3-4,11** ³ Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.... ¹¹ In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

___ **2 Cor. 5:17** ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

___ **Eph. 2:8-10** ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

___ **Tit. 3:4-5** ⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

___ **2 Pe. 1:3-4** ³ His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

___ **1 Jn. 1:8-9** ⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.



Live a Life Worthy

___ **Mt. 28:19-20** ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

___ **Ro. 6:13** ¹³ Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

___ **Ro. 10:14-15,17** ¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”... ¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

___ **Gal. 2:20** ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

___ **Gal. 4:22-23,25** ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control.... ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

___ **Eph. 4:1** ¹ As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

___ **Phil. 1:27** ²⁷ Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.

___ **Phil. 2:12-13** ¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

___ **Col. 1:10** ¹⁰ And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

___ **Jas. 1:22** ²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

___ **1 Pe. 3:15** ¹⁵ But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

Agape Love

___ **Mt. 5:43-44** ⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

___ **1 Cor. 13:4-8** ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails.

___ **1 Cor. 16:14** ¹⁴ Do everything in love.

___ **Gal. 6:2,9-10** ² Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.... ⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

___ **Eph. 4:32** ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

___ **Col. 3:12-14** ¹² Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

___ **Col. 4:5-6** ⁵ Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

___ **1 Th. 4:9-10** ⁹ Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. ¹⁰ And in fact, you do love all the brothers throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers, to do so more and more.

___ **Jas. 1:19** ¹⁹ My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,

___ **Jas. 1:27** ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

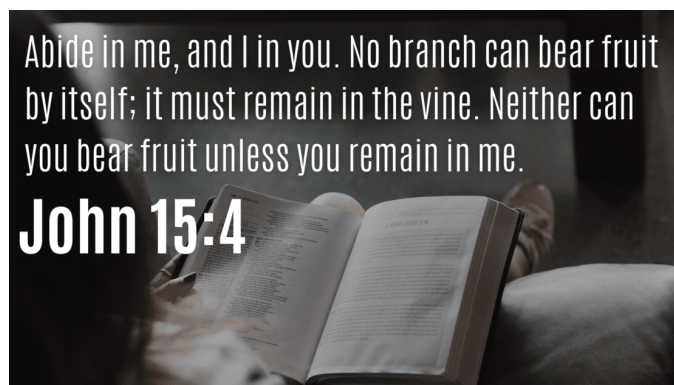
___ **1 Jn. 3:16-18** ¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

Diggin' Deeper

Ro. 7:14-8:8 ¹⁴We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. ¹⁵I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. ²¹So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²²For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. ²⁴What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

8 ¹Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ²because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. ³For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, ⁴in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit. ⁵Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

Ro. 12:1-2,9-21 ¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. ²Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.... ⁹Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹²Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. ¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.



John 15:5,8

⁵ *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing....* ⁸ *This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."*

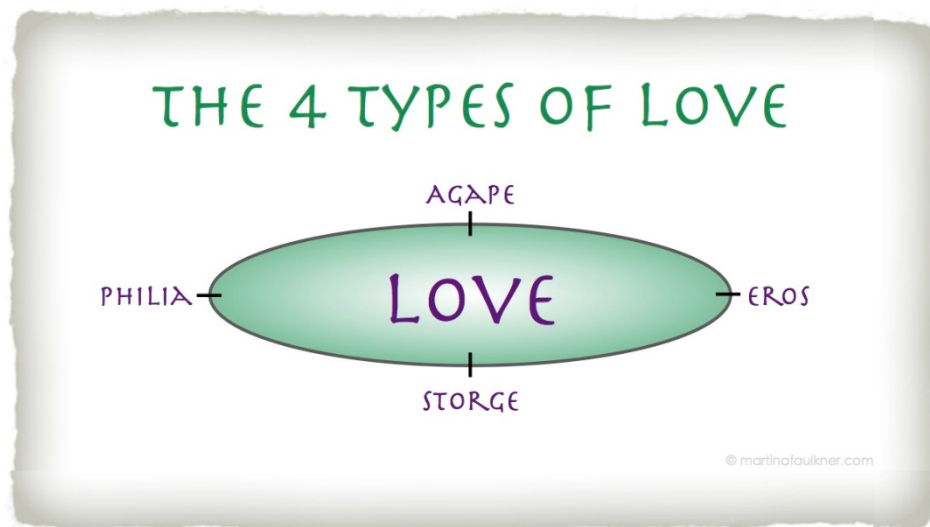
Love Statement

"Love is not always being happy with someone or liking and/or approving of everything a person does. Love is not so much a feeling as much as it is a commitment resulting in action. In love I accept you as a person of unique worth and importance. I accept you as you are and I accept you regardless of your past and regardless of whether or not you ever change. I accept you because you are, because you are YOU and that YOU is SPECIAL!

In my love for you, however, I commit myself to you in such a way that I invite you to change, not so that I will be able to love you more (you have all my love now and you will not be able to lose it). Rather, it is because I love you that I invite you to change, to grow, that you might more fully experience all the beauty and the uniqueness of the YOU that God has created and redeemed you to be. In all of this, whether you change or not, or even if you should change in ways that I perceive to be bad, I promise to love you. I commit myself to you, to be here for you and to be whatever you need me to be. I promise to reflect back to you your own best self- image.

Do I love you? YES, yes, I LOVE YOU!"

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Greek

Agape – Used 280 times in the NT = Unconditional, selfless, sacrificial commitment to the other's best interest.

Philos – Used 41 times in the NT = Close friendship (brotherly/sisterly); tends to be reciprocal in nature.

Storge – Used 3 times in the NT (combined with "a" or philos) = Kinship/possessive (mine), loyalty.

Eros – Not used in the NT = Sensual, appeals to one or more of our five physical senses.

Hebrew

ahavah (noun)

le-evoh (verb)