

Volume 3 – Day 17: Emotion, Not Thought

Christianity differs from all other religions in that its central theme is **personal relationship with God** rather than adherence to religious creeds and confessions. Religion can be simply a process of thinking and doing. Religion does not require, nor encourage, relationship with one's god. It simply requires obedience to creeds of God. Actually the definition of religion is "bondage to a creed."

Christianity stands alone on several particulars. One of these is the relationship of individuals with their Creator, God. Relationship is not a thinking proposition. It is an emotional proposition. We cannot love with our heads. We can only love with our hearts. The inclusion of human philosophy and science in our religious practice and teaching has caused us to drift as a Christian culture far from the *Christ-In* culture which existed in the wake of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. *Christ-Ins* were overwhelmed by the love of God. That love was the distinguishing factor of their faith in Jesus Christ.

When we fall in love, our spirit connects intimately with another. No amount of intellectual study of my lover will endear me to them. Only a mutual attraction to each other's collective emotional gallery will draw us into a deep desire for each other. And nurturing relationship is only facilitated by consistent pursuit of greater caring for the one we love. As the emotion (love) deepens, the connection strengthens. As the connection strengthens we feel more secure. And as we nurture the love affair, it develops into greater passion for each other and greater selflessness.

One simple test may help you know where your affections lie. If what you are doing has no thought about what benefit there might be in it for you, then your affection is genuine and the action is a loving thing.