

## The Command to Love God Most or Entirely is an invitation to Intolerance

If God comes first or is to be loved most as Christians and Muslims say (according to the teaching of Jesus God is to be ultimately all that matters) then it follows that people who believe this will be more dangerous than anybody who denies that there is a God who comes first. God makes it a duty to persecute even more than anything else could. The God concept heightens the appeal of enforcing religious observance. If you prefer God to your neighbour you are saying you would hurt your neighbour for him if he asked you to.

And as for God coming first in our hearts, is it because he deserves it? Then he is so good that he should be 99% and others and yourself the 1%. That is essential fanaticism and do we really want a faith where a son is not allowed to adore his father more than God? What kind of God would be measuring how much love he gets? If God should be loved, it is loving him that matters. Why does Christianity and Islam insist that its not enough and he must be loved more than anybody or anything. Is it about power and control and using the God concept to help get it?

Or is it because we become like the person we love and we need to be as caring and good as him? But that is loving virtues and not God. Its how good it will make it you that you care about not God.

Or is he to be loved most just because of what he is? If it is to be done for his own sake and just because he is a person (or persons for Trinity believers) then it matters not if he is God or not. Why not love your baby most for its a person?

Not one of the reasons for loving God most is human. Any decent Christian or Muslim is not doing it. They would be dangerous if they did. This does not change the fact that their religions are harmful systems.

The doctrine of God implies that since God is the law and is not subject to the law that people must agree with him. They must not divorce goodness from God but fuse the two. Since God is supreme there can be no law over him to punish him or reward him for what he does which raises the problem of how we know we can trust him. Christianity says just trust him. But it is unfair and bigoted just trust a being that makes such serious and heavy demands on us: love me with all your heart and do what I say and condemn what I condemn even if my rules make no sense to anybody and put yourself and your neighbour in second place to me. It is like marrying somebody within seconds of meeting them. The God concept then is inherently violent and intolerant and bloody.

Believers insist that we Atheists have no business judging God and finding him guilty of abusing the human race if he exists for we are not above God in order to sit over him in judgement. It implies that they think that all who oppose the true religion or philosophy must be stopped not to destroy freedom but to maintain it. People have a right to the truth and those who plot against the truth are denying them that right. But that does not mean it is necessary to force silence on people or persecute them for differing from the truth. If you think you are right you have to work against other ideas by talking and by helping the promoters not to be one-sided. They can refer you to something that gives you the evidence for an alternative view. It is your duty to try and be right and anybody who is wrong has not tried hard enough.

Religion is dangerous as we know from centuries past when it used very weapon it had to force conversion on people and prevent freedom of speech. Today its beliefs command it to carry on this way. This alone is sufficient proof that its dangerous. Anything that can lead an intelligent or perceptive person to notice that their faith logically justifies persecution and sectarianism and forced conversions is to be condemned outright.

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