

***The Church of the Servant King***  
**The Divine Power Sphere**  
Thoughts of Practical Application

1. The non-spiritual or immature believer doesn't understand the distinction between personal love and impersonal love. From the standpoint of the subject (i.e. the "I" in "I love you"), the capacity for impersonal love reflects spiritual maturity and is the greater indicator of character when contrasted with personal love. The greatness of personal love rests with the character of the object ("you") not the subject ("I").
2. The non-spiritual or immature believer expects personal love from other Christians. This unrealistic expectation is the frequent source of frustration in that believer's life. Reasons: 1) That believer (the object) doesn't possess the character deserving of personal love from a subject (the one from whom personal love is expected); 2) That believer (the object) blames others for not being spiritual when personal love isn't forthcoming; and 3) Most of the other believers with whom he/she associates have not accepted the distinction between the concepts of personal love and impersonal love, therefore they reinforce the unrealistic expectations of this believer as they discuss their relationships with others, e.g. the wife with unrealistic expectations who gathers with her friends and discusses how her husband, co-worker, boss, etc. is treating her.
3. In Christian marriages, the unrealistic expectation of personal love by the object when Christian character is lacking in the object is a source of much trouble. For instance, the non-spiritual nature, laziness, lack of personal hygiene, or lack of self-discipline of a spouse reflects certain mental attitudes toward which the other spouse finds it impossible to respond with personal love. The only recourse is to respond with impersonal love. This situation will test even the most mature believer, especially where the mature believer has lost all respect for the spouse, cannot exercise personal love, and must constantly exercise only impersonal love.