

*It goes without saying that in marriage two wills are in operation at the same time. Sometimes, and especially in the early months of marriage, the two wills are spontaneously congruent and experienced as one. But as time goes by and early ecstasies are succeeded by routines and demands, what was experienced as a gift must be developed as an art.*

*Eugene Peterson*

*If the home is to be a means of grace it must be a place of rules...the alternative to rule is not freedom but unconstitutional (and often unconscious) tyranny of the most selfish member.*

*C.S. Lewis*

# LIFE : *In Christ*

*A study in Colossians*





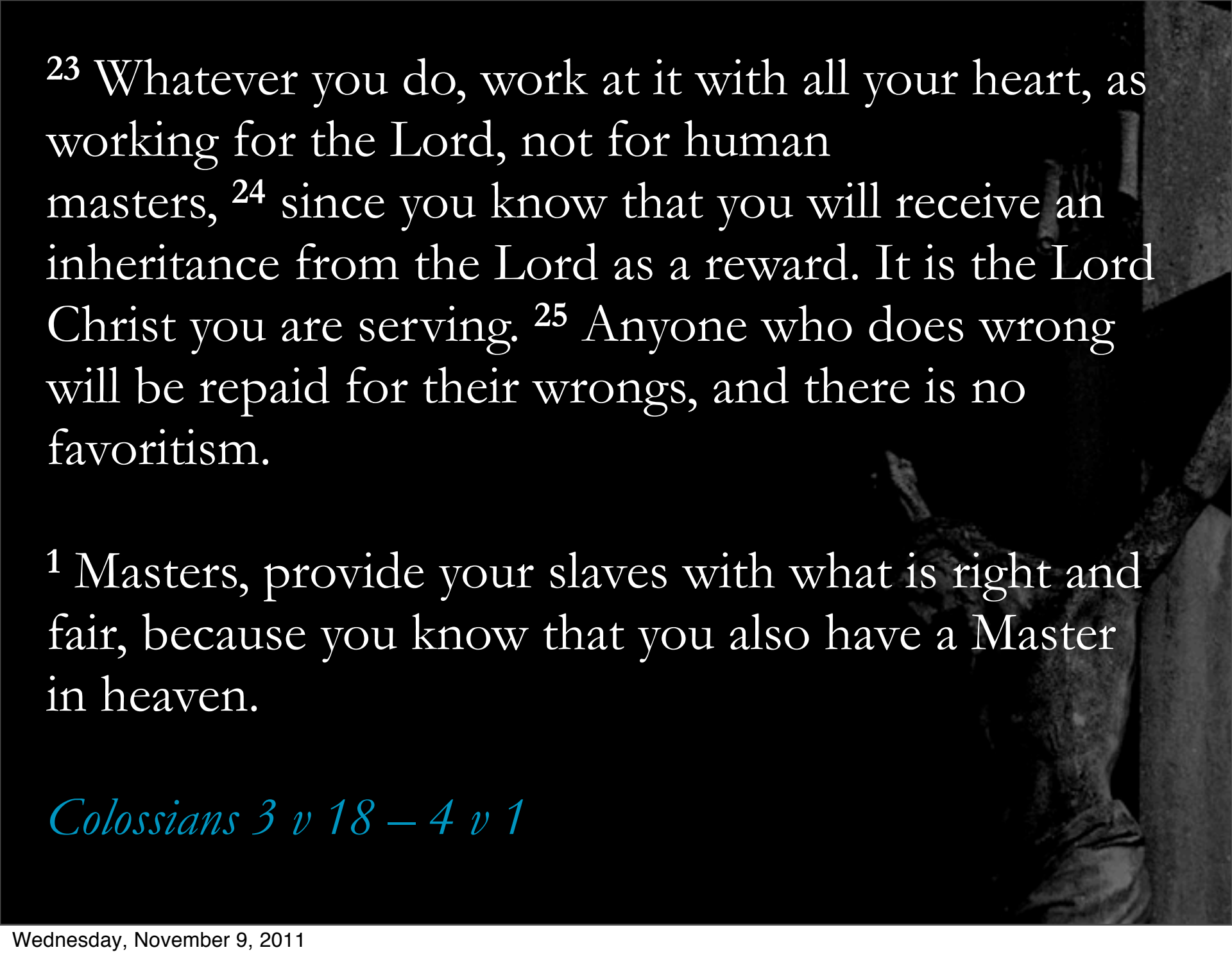
Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

<sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

<sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

<sup>22</sup> Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.



<sup>23</sup> Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, <sup>24</sup> since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. <sup>25</sup> Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.

<sup>1</sup> Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

*Colossians 3 v 18 – 4 v 1*

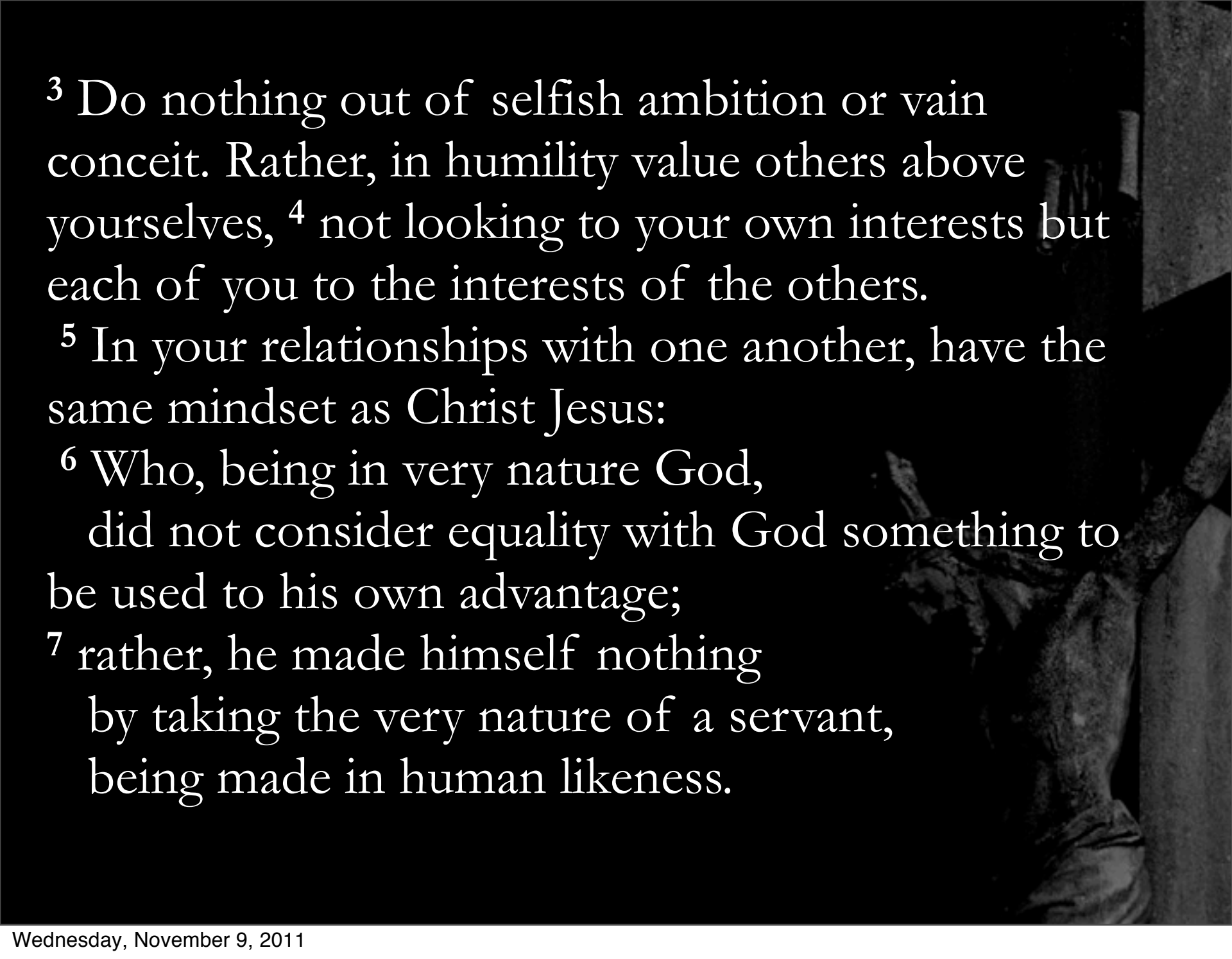
# *Wholeness and Integration*



# *Submission and Jesus*



Wednesday, November 9, 2011

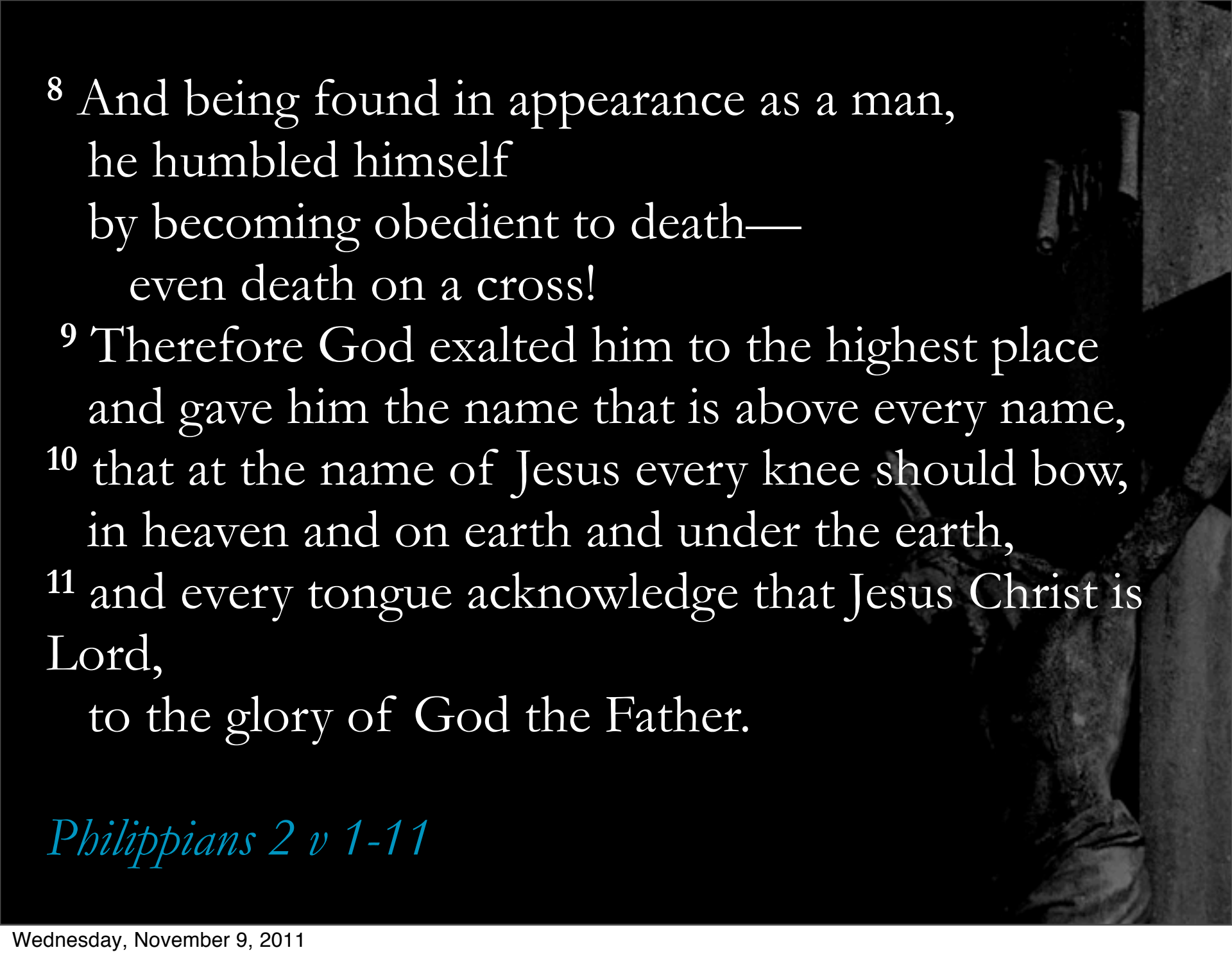


<sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

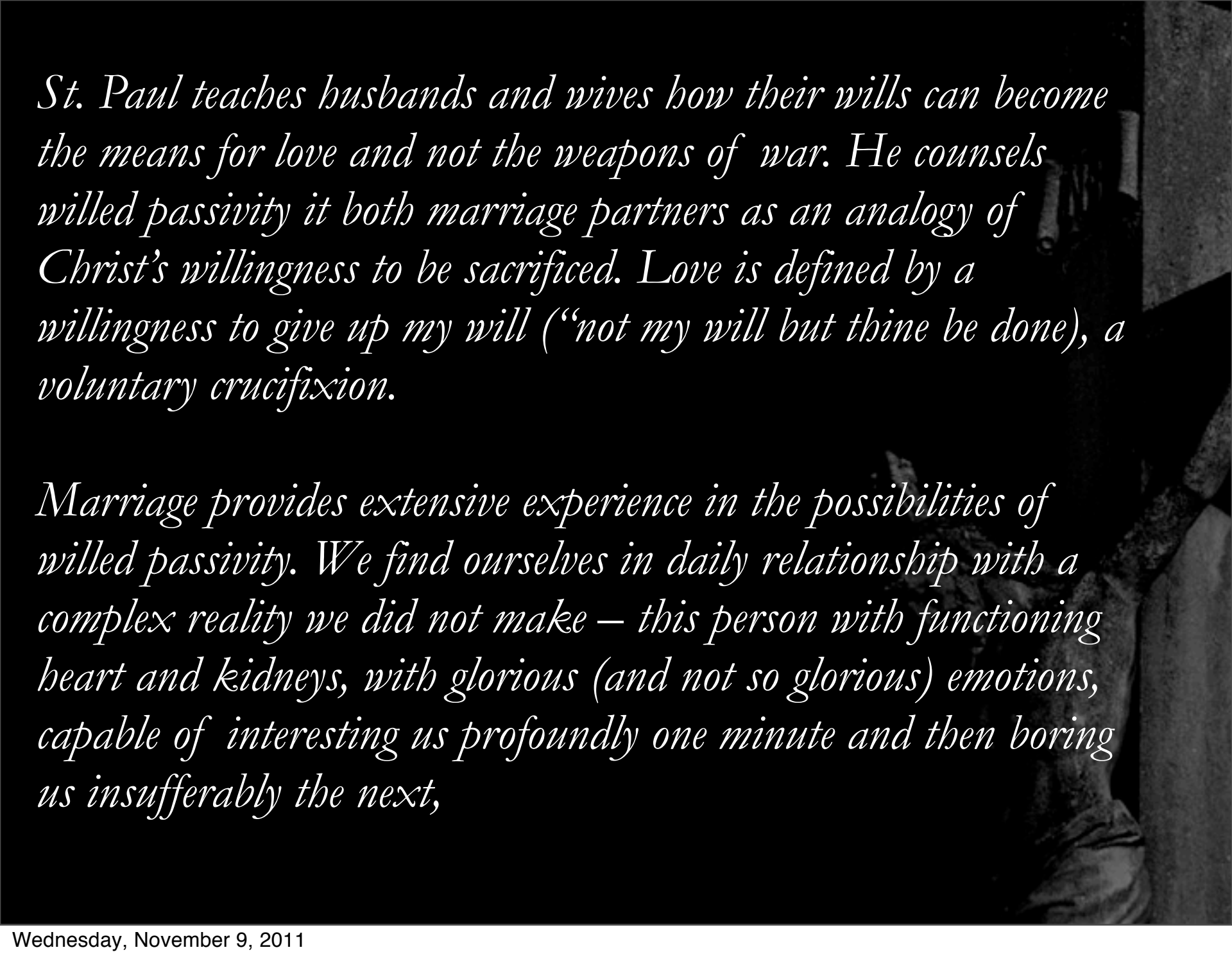
<sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.



<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!

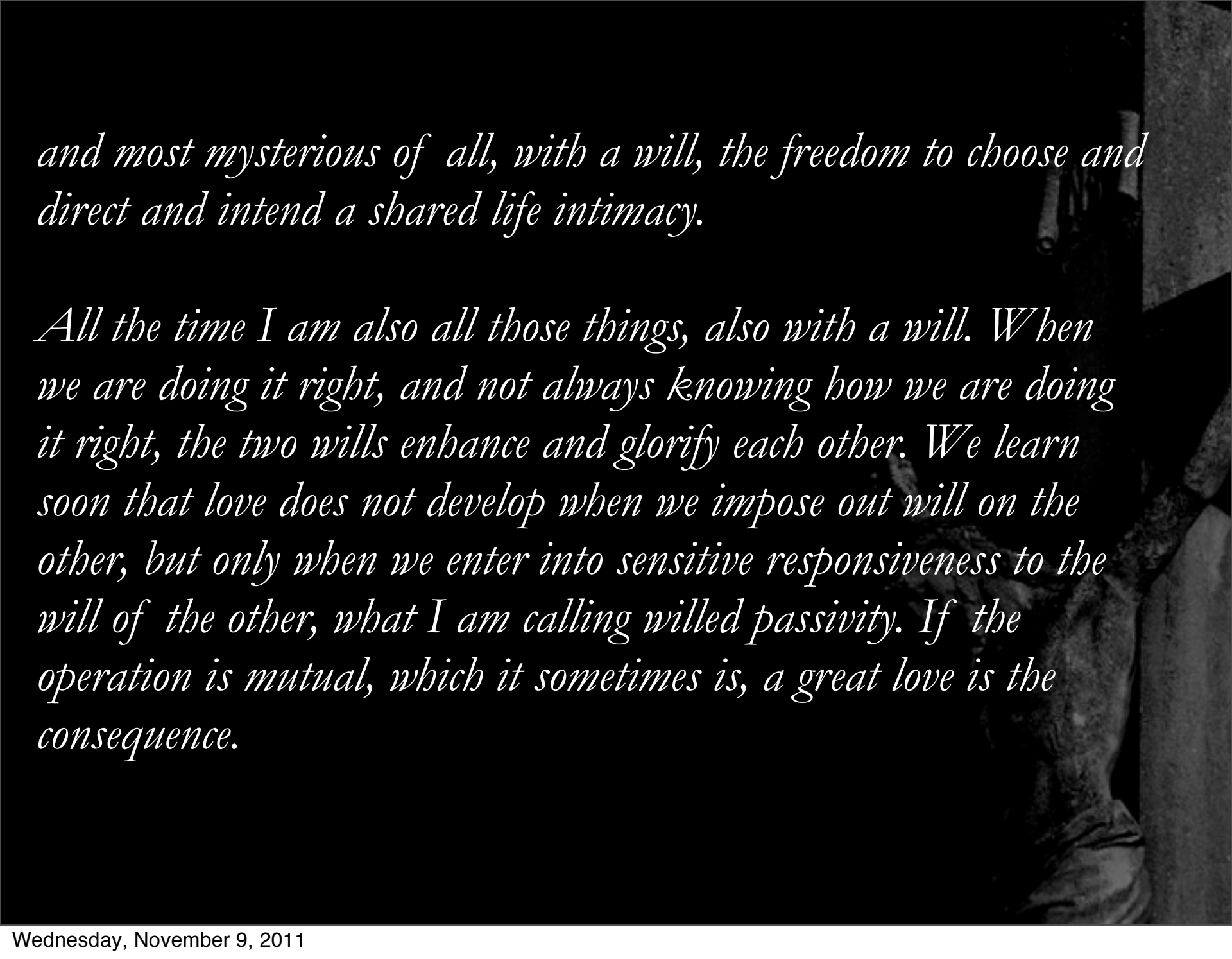
<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is  
Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

*Philippians 2 v 1-11*



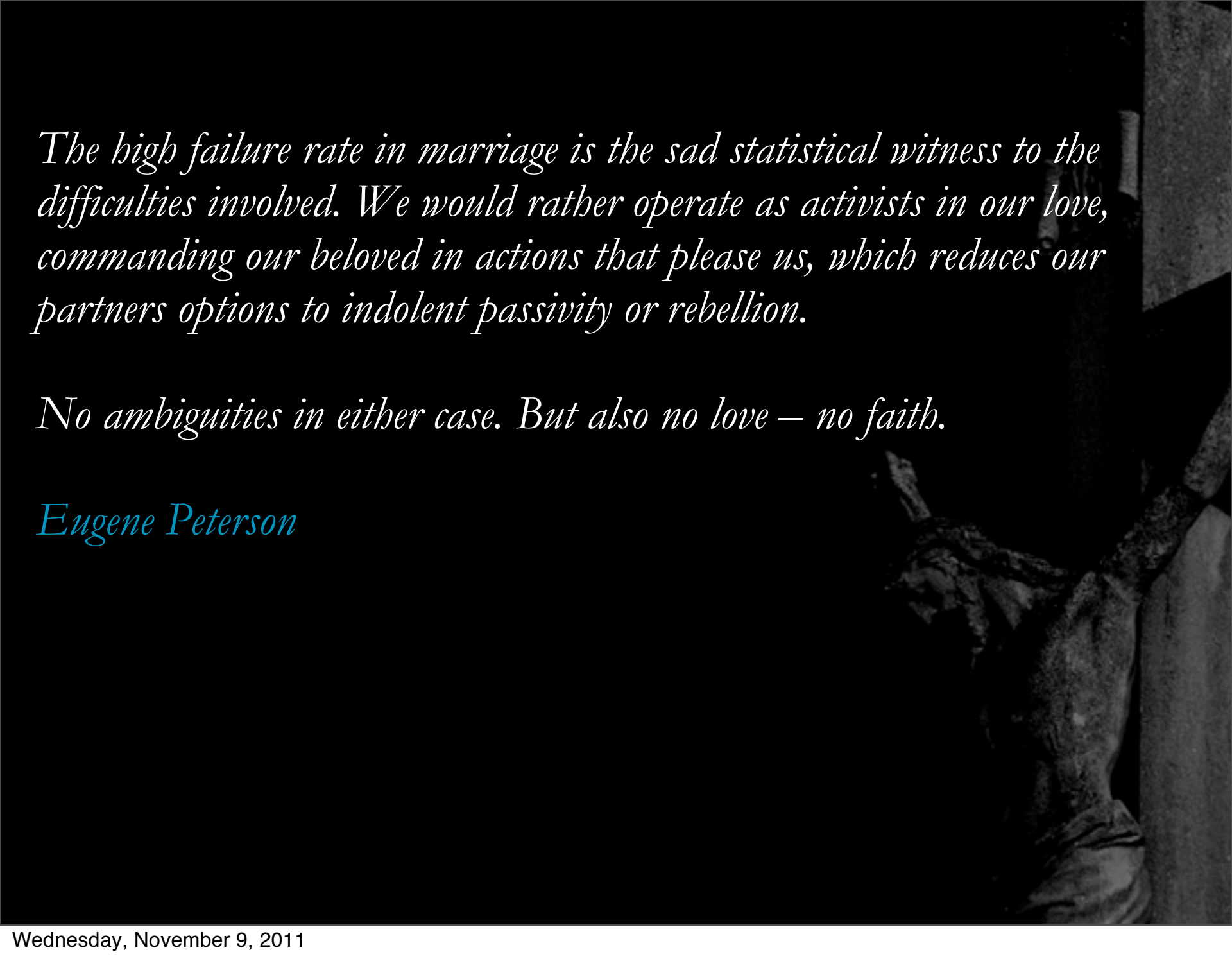
*St. Paul teaches husbands and wives how their wills can become the means for love and not the weapons of war. He counsels willed passivity in both marriage partners as an analogy of Christ's willingness to be sacrificed. Love is defined by a willingness to give up my will ("not my will but thine be done), a voluntary crucifixion.*

*Marriage provides extensive experience in the possibilities of willed passivity. We find ourselves in daily relationship with a complex reality we did not make — this person with functioning heart and kidneys, with glorious (and not so glorious) emotions, capable of interesting us profoundly one minute and then boring us insufferably the next,*



*and most mysterious of all, with a will, the freedom to choose and direct and intend a shared life intimacy.*


*All the time I am also all those things, also with a will. When we are doing it right, and not always knowing how we are doing it right, the two wills enhance and glorify each other. We learn soon that love does not develop when we impose our will on the other, but only when we enter into sensitive responsiveness to the will of the other, what I am calling willed passivity. If the operation is mutual, which it sometimes is, a great love is the consequence.*



*The high failure rate in marriage is the sad statistical witness to the difficulties involved. We would rather operate as activists in our love, commanding our beloved in actions that please us, which reduces our partners options to indolent passivity or rebellion.*

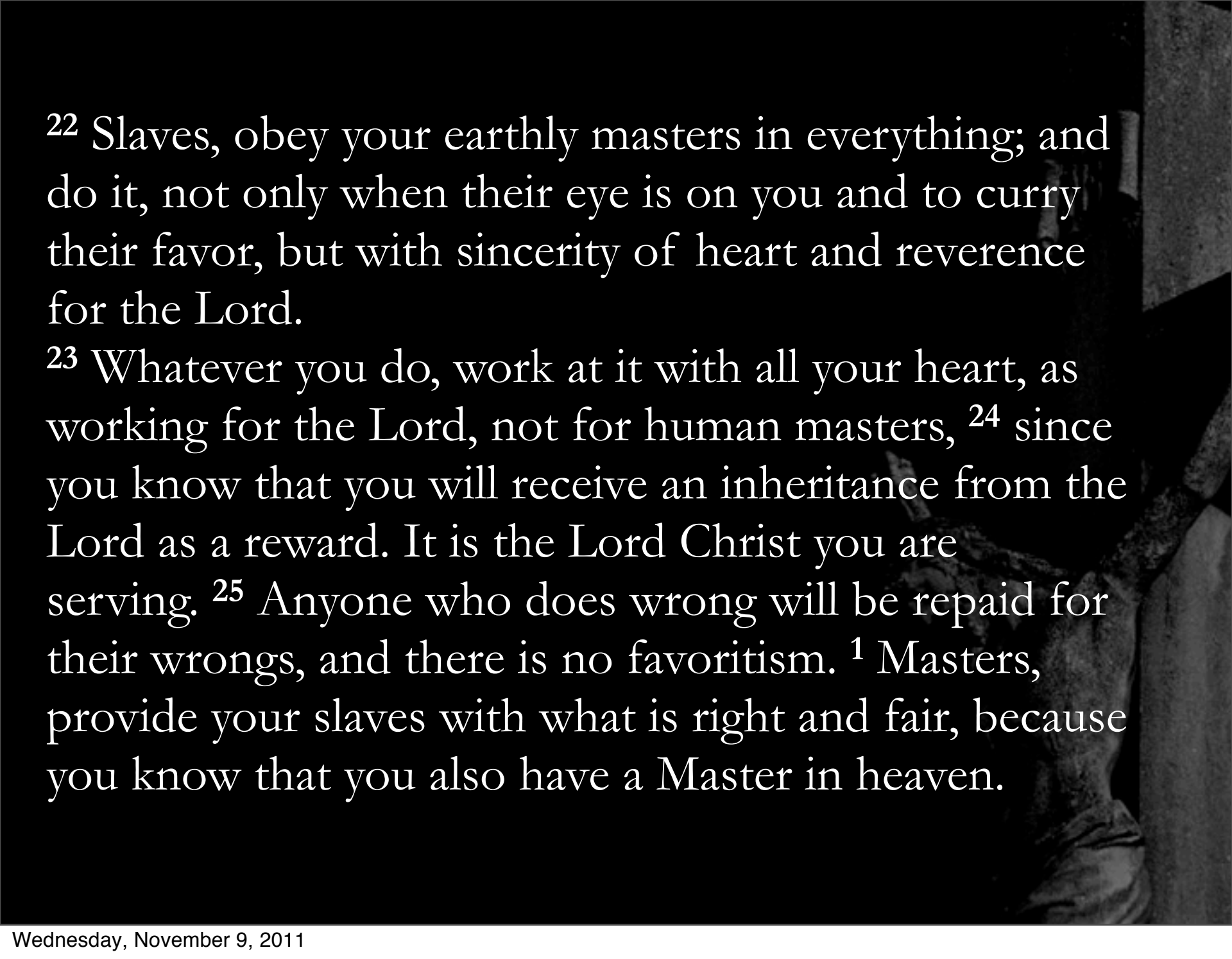
*No ambiguities in either case. But also no love — no faith.*

*Eugene Peterson*



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*How Transformation  
works in the  
Kingdom of Jesus...*



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