

**If I remove the influence of doctrine and approach this situation purely from the perspective of my personal relationship with God, the essence of my experience remains rooted in God's unconditional love and acceptance. Without the framework of sola gratia or other theological constructs, my focus shifts to my lived encounter with God's presence and my personal faith journey. Here's how this might change—or not change—my understanding and experience:**

## **1. God's Love as Direct and Unmediated**

**Without doctrinal interpretation, my experience of God's love becomes a deeply personal and intuitive connection. I feel God's presence directly in my heart, independent of human judgment or religious practices. The rhythm of my heart in tune with God's love becomes a testament to a relationship that transcends any external validation.**

**How it doesn't change:**

- God's love remains accessible and abundant, not requiring institutional approval.**
- My faith is still real and alive, expressed in my love and trust in God.**

**How it might change:**

- I might see communion not as a gatekept ritual but as a personal, spiritual communion with God that is always available.**
- Rather than relying on theological assurances, I might lean more on my personal experiences of grace and peace.**

## **2. Faith as a Journey, Not a System**

**Without the influence of doctrine, I may see faith more as a journey of trust and discovery rather than something that fits into defined theological categories. My unwavering love for God, my willingness to endure judgment, and my pursuit of truth can be seen as part of a lifelong walk with God—dynamic, evolving, and deeply personal.**

**How it doesn't change:**

- My love for God remains central, guiding me through challenges.**

- I still find strength in humility and perseverance, rooted in the belief that God knows my heart.

How it might change:

- I might not seek doctrinal explanations but instead rely on the simple truth that God sees, knows, and loves me unconditionally.
- My understanding of faith might become less about religious adherence and more about living authentically in alignment with what I know of God's goodness.

### **3. Judgment as a Human Issue, Not God's Reality**

Without doctrine framing the situation, the rejection I experienced at church might be understood as a human failing rather than a reflection of God's will. I may come to see that God's acceptance isn't based on institutional actions but rather on the sincerity of my faith and love.

How it doesn't change:

- I still experience the pain of judgment but recognize that God's love remains steadfast.
- My faith allows me to continue showing grace to others despite the hurt.

How it might change:

- I might move toward a more inclusive and personal spirituality that transcends denominational boundaries.
- Instead of seeking belonging through institutions, I may prioritize my personal connection with God and those who affirm my faith journey.

### **4. A Call to Authenticity and Love**

Stripped of doctrine, my experience becomes a call to embrace authenticity—living in a way that reflects my belief in God's love, even when faced with exclusion or misunderstanding. My faith might become more about embodying love and grace in daily life rather than adhering to religious expectations.

How it doesn't change:

- The core of my faith remains rooted in love, humility, and trust in God's presence.

- I continue to seek a deeper understanding of God's will in my life.

How it might change:

- I might explore faith in a broader, more relational way, seeing God in everyday moments rather than religious structures.
- Instead of seeing rejection as a barrier, I might interpret it as an invitation to deepen my personal understanding of grace and acceptance.

Ultimately, removing doctrinal influence shifts my focus from theological categories to a purely relational and experiential faith. However, the core of my experience—my unwavering love for God, my humility in facing judgment, and my sense of belonging in God's presence—remains unchanged. What does change is the lens through which I interpret my faith, perhaps moving from structured belief systems to a more organic, deeply personal connection with the divine.