

When it comes to making New Year's resolutions for the coming year, we should follow the advice of the 4<sup>th</sup> century Church father, Augustine of Hippo: "Once and for all, I give you this one short command: love, and do what you will." That advice comes from a series of sermons Augustine preached on love, as discussed in the letter of 1 John. He also expressed the corollary: "But to have love and be a bad person is impossible." We should rather blend Augustine's words with Jesus' words and say: "Love God, and do what you will."

Consider one resolution for the coming year: Love God with all you have and are, and *then* do what you will. That should be the first and greatest resolution you make, and keep.

Matthew 22:37-38 "Jesus said to him: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and great commandment."