
CAN WE CONTROL LOVE? (CAN WE CHANGE OUR FEELINGS?)

Joey Faust (3-9-22)



**TEXT: Proverbs 5:19...*be*
thou ravished *always* with
her love.**

“There is in our Western culture the romantic chivalric tradition still strong...It idealizes 'love' - and as far as it goes can be very good, since it takes in far more than physical pleasure...Its weakness is, of course, that it began as an artificial courtly game, a way of enjoying love for its own sake without reference to (and indeed contrary to) matrimony. Its center was not God, but imaginary Deities, Love and the Lady. It still tends to make the Lady a kind of guiding star or divinity...This is, of course, false and at best make-believe. The woman is another fallen human-being...”

(J.R.R. Tolkien; a letter to his son in 1941)

“But combined and harmonized with religion...it can be very noble...Yet I still think it has dangers. It is not wholly true, and it is not perfectly 'Theocentric.' It takes, or at any rate has in the past taken, the young man's eyes off women as they are, as companions in shipwreck...One result of that is to make young folk **look for a 'love'** that will keep them always nice and warm in a cold world, **without any effort of theirs**; and the incurably romantic go on looking even in the squalor of the divorce courts.' ...”

(J.R.R. Tolkien; a letter to his son in 1941)

Proverbs 5:18...rejoice with the wife of thy youth.

19 **Let her** be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; **let** her breasts satisfy thee **at all times**; and **be** thou **ravished always** with her love.

Song of Solomon 8:6...love is strong as death...the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame.

7 Many waters cannot quench love...

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

"The Hollywood...views of love...permeate our society...a pagan philosophy of love. The philosophy is that love happens. Love is not something to work at...It isn't something that you develop; it isn't something that grows...It isn't a thinking thing, and it certainly isn't something you can will...but what happens when the happening no longer happens?"

(Jay Adams, *Christian Counselor's Manual*)

"What happens when the happening is over?...What happens when feeling dies...?...What happens when one or the other begins to have growing feelings for someone else?...If mom is to dress like the stars, style her hair like the stars, and make up her face like the stars, why shouldn't she also hitch her marriage to a star?..."

(Jay Adams, *Christian Counselor's Manual*)



"Much advertising is rooted in the philosophy of hedonism...Everyone, of course, is for love. The hippies are for love...the followers of Hari Krishna are for love...What is Biblical love?...Love is giving...It is not feeling and desire..."
(Jay Adams, *Christian Counselor's Manual*)

**Song of Solomon 4:9 Thou hast
ravished my heart, my sister,
my spouse; thou hast ravished
my heart with one of thine
eyes...**

**"If one gives, the feeling
of love will follow."**

(Jay Adams)

Psalm 119:97 O how
love I thy law! it is **my**
meditation all the day.

Judges 14:16 And Samson's wife wept before him, and said, Thou dost but **hate** me, and **lovest** me not...

**Proverbs 16:13 Righteous
lips are the **delight** of kings;
and they **love** him that
speaketh right.**

1 Samuel 18:22 And Saul commanded his servants, saying, Commune with David secretly, and say, Behold, the king hath **delight in thee, and all his servants **love** thee: now therefore be the king's son in law.**

Proverbs 1:22 How long, ye simple ones, will ye **love** simplicity? and the scorers **delight** in their scorning, and fools **hate** knowledge?

**Proverbs 3:12 For whom the
Lord **loveth** he correcteth;
even as a father the son in
whom he **delighteth**.**

Philippians 1:9 And this I
pray, that **your love** may
abound yet more and more in
knowledge and in all
judgment;

**Judges 5:28 The mother of Sisera looked out at a window, and cried through the lattice, Why is his chariot so long in coming? why tarry the wheels of his chariots?
30 Have they not sped? have they not divided the prey; to every man a damsel or two...**

Delight:

"To have or take great pleasure; to be greatly pleased..." (Web., 1828)

**Psalm 37:4 Delight thyself
also in the LORD; and he
shall give thee the desires of
thine heart.**

**Psalms 62:4...they delight in
lies...**

**Psalms 119:16 I will delight
myself in thy statutes...**

Psalm 119:47 And I **will**
delight myself in thy
commandments, which I
have loved.

Psalms 119:47 And I **will delight** myself
in thy commandments, which I **have
loved.**

48 My hands also **will I lift up** unto thy
commandments, which I **have loved;**
and I will meditate in thy statutes.

**Psalms 34:1 I will bless the LORD
at all times: his praise shall
continually be in my mouth.**

**2 My soul shall make her boast in
the LORD: the humble shall hear
thereof, and be glad.**

**Proverbs 29:17 Correct thy
son, and he shall give thee
rest; yea, he shall give delight
unto thy soul.**

Proverbs 20:27 The **spirit**
of man is **the candle** of the
LORD, **searching** all the
inward parts of the **belly**.

Luke 1:46 And Mary said,
My soul doth magnify the
Lord,

47 And **my spirit hath**
rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Proverbs 26:28 A

lying tongue **hateth**

those that are

afflicted by it...

**Exodus 7:23 And Pharaoh
turned and went into his
house, neither did he set
his heart to this also.**

**Joshua 8:8 And it shall be,
when ye have taken the
city, that ye shall **set the
city on fire...****

**1 Chronicles 22:19 Now
set your heart and your
soul to seek the LORD
your God...**

1 Chronicles 29:3 Moreover,
because **I have set my affection** to
the **house of my God**, I have of
mine own proper good, of gold and
silver, **which I have given** to the
house of my God...

**2 Chronicles 20:3 And
Jehoshaphat feared, and
set himself to seek the
LORD...**

**Psalms 62:10...if
riches increase, set
not your heart upon
them.**

Psalms 78:8...a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not steadfast with God.

Colossians 3:2 **Set your affection** on things above, not on things on the earth.

"It has been questioned whether **we can guide the affections**, and doubtless there are difficulties in anything like an **instantaneous transfer** of your love to one you have disliked and avoided. And yet **the affections can be changed, can be controlled.**"

(The Record, 1878)

**"The rule for all of us is perfectly simple. Do not waste time bothering whether you 'love' your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this, we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him. If you injure someone you dislike, you will find yourself disliking him more. If you do him a good turn, you will find yourself disliking him less."
(C.S. Lewis)**

"How to Fall Back in Love - You can regulate your romantic feelings; look at pictures and think positive thoughts...Good news: You can rekindle love. Researchers call it '**love regulation.**' A new study by psychologists at the University of Missouri - St. Louis and Erasmus University Rotterdam found that people can use thoughts to increase how much they love someone. People can also willfully decrease love..."

(The Wall Street Journal, Dec. 19, 2016)

"...emotions can always be controlled by the will in an indirect way. The mind can bring up any kind of emotion it chooses by directing the attention to the proper object. They will be certain to rise in proportion to the attention fixed upon it, provided the will is right in regard to the object."

(Charles G. Finney, 19th century)

"But feeling, it may be said, reacts upon thought, and in turn governs it. True, but this is not the natural order...AFFECTIONS CAN BE CONTROLLED...The affections, then, and the feelings generally, being thus controlled through the power of attention...He whose course of reading and meditation presents only what is pure, and generous, and noble, lives in a world wholly different from that of him who pursues an opposite course..."

(Mark Hopkins, Lectures on Moral Science, 1870)

“It was when men 'changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man'...that 'God gave them up unto vile affections'...This doctrine that **we are responsible for the affections**...has special need of enforcement at the present time...”

(Mark Hopkins, *Lectures on Moral Science*, 1870)

"Always there have been those who have justified lawlessness here on the pretense that the feelings were irresistible...How could feeling be brought under law?...the most solemn vows are violated. Husbands desert their wives, and wives their husbands, and even their children, and doctrines are openly taught, **claiming sanction from the spiritual world, that would subvert the most sacred institutions of society..."**

(Mark Hopkins, *Lectures on Moral Science*, 1870)

**Titus 2:4 That they may
teach the young women to be
sober, to love their husbands,
to love their children,**