

Love and Romance

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Straight Paths Bible Church

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

1 John 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

- I. We hear much about the love of God, but in practice we see little of it.
 - A. We all know the verses that speak of God's love and we have a pretty shallow understanding of what God's love is really like.

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.

John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

1 John 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. (oneness)

- 1. It is like skipping a rock across a pond – we just barely get wet, but we are not immersed in the knowledge of the love of God.
 - B. God made man in his own image – male and female created He them.
 - 1. God divided mankind much like He divided himself when He created Adam.
 - 2. Male and female represent God and mankind, and the love of God is most clearly manifested when it is seen between a man and a woman who truly love one another according to God's definition of love.
 - 3. Since this relationship is foundational to understanding God and his love toward us, it is the number one target of Satan.
 - 4. The devil has been successful in destroying a proper understanding of love, and he has convinced the world that lust and emotion are what constitute love, but the devil is a liar.
- II. Men and women are different creatures and the differences in the way they look for and manifest love are what makes it easy for the devil to deceive them.
 - A. Both being selfish creatures, unregenerate men and women are looking for something for themselves.
 - B. It is not benevolence that is their root motive for seeking someone to love, but rather the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life.
 - C. They are not seeking someone to be a blessing to, but someone to be a blessing to themselves.

1 Kings 11:1 But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites;

- D. When men seek for a wife without God's influence and authority in their life, they seek for a woman that pleases their eyes, that pleases their flesh, and that would make them look good in front others.
 - 1. He will try to impress her with gifts, with his strength, with his success, or with his skills.

2. He will try to convince her he is more than what he really is.
- E. When a woman without God seeks for a husband she looks for the same things.
 1. She watches and listens for any attention that is given her.
 2. She makes herself very vulnerable to flattery and any kind of attention.
 3. She tries to impress him with her body to try to get and keep his attention.
 - a) And she will paint, primp, color, and squeeze it into a shape that she hopes will attract him.

III. When a man truly loves it will be manifested by unwavering commitment.

[Jeremiah 31:3](#) The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

- A. Commitment begets obedience to what is true and what is right.
 1. Love is intricately tied to obedience in the Word of God.

[John 14:23](#) Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

2. Anything called love that does not manifest itself in obedience to truth is not love, but lust, or emotion, or infatuation.
- B. Commitment begets faithfulness and steadfastness.
- C. When a man truly loves he will be so committed that he will be willing to die for the object of his love.
 1. This is exactly what God has done to manifest his love toward us.
- D. When a man truly loves his passion will be providing, protecting, and nurturing.
 1. Protecting her against evil, even from himself.
 2. Fathers would be wise to look for these things in a man who comes courting their daughter.
 - a) Is he protective or possessive of her?
 - b) Does his love for her and your love for her have anything in common?

IV. When a woman truly loves it will be manifested also by commitment.

- A. This is the whole foundation of the marriage covenant.
 1. She will not be listening to or paying any attention to the flirtations of anyone else from now on.
- B. A woman who truly loves will be completely satisfied with the one she loves.
 1. She will not be looking for new thrills and new experiences.
 2. Her heart has all it needs to be satisfied with the one she loves.
- C. A woman who truly loves will respect and reverence her husband.

[Ephesians 5:33](#) Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

1. The word means “to be in awe of.”
2. A woman like this is in very little danger of being drawn away by someone else.

V. So how men and women respond to one another differs greatly, depending upon whether God is in authority in their life or not.

- A. Many times this is the matter which reveals the true condition of the heart.
- B. We see many young people who seem to be wanting to do right and serve God while they are growing up, but when the time comes to start seeking a husband or

wife, their true heart is revealed by the way they go about it, and what they respond to from the opposite gender.

- C. True love will not be found any other way but seeking someone to love with the love of God.
 - D. Romantic love is an invention of the devil and this world has made it very popular in spite of its utter failure.
 - E. Everyone is now “in a relationship.”
 - 1. Which means they are trying each other out, and it is only a temporary arrangement.
 - 2. This is completely opposite of what the Bible teaches us love really is.
- VI. So we should be able to see how these ungodly concepts of love make it easy for the devil to seduce the shallow professing Christians of this generation.
- A. They are like the silly girl who is easily excited and ready to give herself to anyone who will pay her attention.
 - B. The men involved in this seduction are there to take advantage of what is easily available by their ignorance and lust.
 - C. The world is looking on and laughing with the devil while the churches have become nightclubs, dance halls, rock concerts, and brothels where men and sodomites come to find their prey.

2 Timothy 3:6-7 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

- D. We need to learn to love like God loves, and we need to unlearn how to love like the world without God does.
- E. And we need to know the difference very well, and strive to keep ourselves in the love of God.

Jude 21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.