

# LOVE AND LUST

LEARNING TO LIVE GOD'S WAY

Better  
Pleasure

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## **Re-Thinking Series**

- God's Purpose & Design For Sex
- The Principles For Godly Sex In Marriage
- The Life In Grace
- Battling Continued Lust Thoughts
- Unplugging From the Matrix (For Students)
- Love & Lust
- A Fast From Intimacy
- Homosexuality (A Position Paper)

Something to think about

***Hell and Destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.***  
***Proverbs 27:20***

The above verse is so true, not just for men, but for all mankind! Today we want to discuss in specific the difference between love and lust. For many of us, we have not had many good examples of love, especially when it comes to intimate relationships and specifically sex.

Unfortunately this lack of love is at the root of many of our problems in life. But with God there is hope!

#### **Question 1**

Before we go any further, write down your own definition of love. Put into words how you would describe love...

What is Love?

This is Webster's Dictionary's definition of "love": 1) a deep and tender feeling of fondness and devotion; 2) a strong liking; 3) a sweetheart; 4) in tennis, a score of zero. Knowing the ever-changing world we live in, none of those definitions sound like something to base a life on. What happens when those "tender feelings of fondness" or "strong likings" change? By the definitions above, love is subject to change at any time. So is there a more concrete definition of love? Yes! In 1 John 4:16, the Bible gives this definition of love, it says: "...**God is love**." That definition is not based on changing feelings or a changing world. That definition is based on an unchanging God who is the author and creator of love. He is the definition of love, therefore we will look to Him and His Words to use in order to learn more about love.

The Look of Love...

Read these verses about love and answer the question below.

***"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."***                      ***1 Corinthians 13:4-8***

## **Question 2**

From the verses above, quickly list all the things that the Bible says love is:

From the list above, we get a clear picture of the way God created love to look among us. Love looks unselfish, pure, hopeful, persevering. Love is not only about happy feelings and just finding someone to marry or have sex with. It is a way of life. Probably you have experienced some clear pictures of the kind of love written about in 1 Corinthians. Think of all the places and ways you've felt and seen glimpses of that kind of "love". Maybe your parents have given you a good picture of it. Or maybe you've experienced portions of it from your friends, from your brother or sister, from a girlfriend; or maybe even from a coach or teacher or pastor.

All these experiences and feelings are a very real part of love. Please be careful not to assume you already know what love is because you've been in an intimate relationship. You must understand that God's love is defined much differently than the cultural kind of Love.

Actually in the Hebrew language of the Old Testament and the Greek language of the New Testament there are multiple words used for love.

This is different from our English that simply uses love for all kinds of situations. We love ice cream and we love God!?

In Hebrew we see:

- Dowd = to boil over
- Ahab = to desire
- Rayah = friendly love
- hashaq = God's love for his people

In Greek we see:

- Eros, or sexual passion. The first kind of love was eros, named after the Greek god of fertility (Cupid to the Romans), and it represented the idea of sexual passion and desire. ... It is not used in the Bible
- Phileo, or deep friendship. ... Used in the New Testament
- Agape, or love for everyone. ... (We will talk about this one more later)  
Used in the New Testament
- Storge (friendship love) ... Not used in the Bible

*Check this out!*

*We all experience these types of love except one! Agape is the Love that comes from the living God alone. It is not naturally in humans. We are not saying you don't love at all, but that we cannot have agape love, with out Christ's Spirit working in and through us.*

### The Enemy of Love

Because God is love (Agape) and Satan hates God, He tries to tempt us with imitations of love. He seeks to get us to settle for his incomplete, selfish version of "love". We call it lust. The enemy of love is lust. They are opposites. At the core of God's love is unselfishness, serving, sacrificing. But lust has at its core, selfishness, pride and illusion. Lust is Satan's perverted, twisted, never-satisfying substitute for God's love. Lust is a selfish and unbridled sexual urge that always ends in guilt, pain and destruction. Lust and infatuation can go hand in hand. Infatuation is incomplete love. Infatuation is largely based on physical attraction and the

image and perceptions we have of the other person, not who the person really is, created by God. Let's look at how love and lust compare.

Let's look over some scriptures that speak about lust.

***Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."***  
**1 Peter 1:13-16**

According to verse 16, Why shouldn't we walk in lust?

God is holy. This is the number one way that the Biblical writers describe God. Holiness is what makes God distinct from everyone. The word "holy" means to be separated. God is separated from sin and sinners. God is whole or complete, lacking nothing and not in any need of anything.

***God "is not served by human hands, as if He needed anything, because He Himself gives all men life and breath and everything else"***  
**Acts 17:25**

***Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.***  
**Revelation 15:4**

***What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are - the Holy One of God!***  
**Mark 1:24**

Yet God has made a way for us to be holy, and that is through the holiness

of His Son Jesus.

***For He (The Father) made Him (The Son) who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21***

For those who have received Christ as Lord and Savior, we have been given the Holy Spirit (Jesus' Spirit) to live in us. This means that we have a choice today to live in the Love of God or not. God is Love. His Son shows us Love, The Spirit of God transforms us to Love. And now we have this Spirit living in us!

***And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Galatians 4:6***

***that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:22-24***

Let's look at some other scriptures about lust!

***Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul. 1 Peter 2:11***

What does lust do in us from the above passage?

Another passage from the letter of Peter says...

***that we should no longer live the rest of our time in the body for the lusts of men, but for the will of God 1 Peter 4:2***

As a Christian our desire is no longer to serve our bodily appetites, but now our bodies are to serve God (see 1 Corinthians 6:20, 2 Corinthians 5:15)

So how do we overcome lust?

***Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.***

***1 John 4:7-8***

The Word here in Greek is “AGAPE.”

This kind of love is from God and can only be received from Him. The God who is Love, can give us this love through the Power of the Holy Spirit as you ask for it! *This love properly governs all the other forms of love!*

Pray:

Father, fill me full of your love for people, and help me to not fall into lustful, old patterns, but renew my heart and mind in your love. In Jesus name!

### **Question 3**

Read those above verses from I Corinthians 13 again. For each trait of love below, think of an opposite trait that describes lust:

If love is patient, ...then lust is hurried and impatient.

If love is kind, ...then lust is rude or uncaring.

If love is humble, ...then lust is

If love is selfless, ...then lust is

If love trusts, ...then lust

If love is slow to anger, ...then lust is

If love forgives, ...then lust

If love protects, ...then lust

If love perseveres in the face of difficulties, ...then lust

If love continues until the end, ...then lust

If love gives freedom, ...then lust

If love encourages purity, ...then lust



Only true, complete love anchored in the Person of Jesus Christ can fulfill you and God's design for you. Lust will only hurt you and those you care for.

To love is a decision. It is a choice to pursue the best in the other person and to help them be a success in God's eyes. Yes, there can definitely be romantic feelings in that kind of "decisive" love. But true love is not based only on romantic feelings that come and go. It is a decision no matter the feelings. It is a choice. Included in the choice to love someone is the choice to be pure and help them be pure as well. You cannot separate love from purity. You will know that the one saying "I love you" truly loves you if they want to see you successful in God's eyes, and are willing to sacrifice their own pleasure for purity in both of you.

Pastor John Piper defines love as:

**“Love is the overflow of joy in God, that meets the needs of others.”**

To end our study today, I want to share how the Holy Spirit plays the role in helping us love people correctly.

***“And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”***

***Galatians 4:6***

Who lives in us?

What an amazing truth. The Christian life is one where we are asking Jesus to live His life through us! It is our job to surrender or crucify our lives in order for Christ to live and love in, and through us.

***“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave His life for me.***

***Galatians 2:20***

Lastly, what is the fruit of the Holy Spirit?

***The fruit of the Holy Spirit is Love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.***  
***Galatians 5:22-23***

Is there ever a time that you think God would not want you to walk in the Love of the Holy Spirit?

**Discussion:**

Is showing porn to my wife Love or Lust? Why?

Why do you think our culture talks about the **constant** and **continual** need to spice up their sex life? (Magazines at the check out stand!) What does this reveal about peoples sex lives?

How can understanding Biblical love guide your intimate life?

Can you see how living in the Power of God's love can be a great benefit to your beloved?

Does this love naturally reside in human beings? (See Romans 3:12)

How do we receive this Holy Spirit of Love? (See Luke 11:11-13)

List ways that Lust manifests itself in your life?

Now take this list and ask the Lord to crucify these lustful behaviors and ask that His Spirit work in you to become the new man (woman) made in the image of Christ, and no longer the old man according to the ways of this world.

