

LET THE BIBLE SPEAK SERIES

Ronny F. Wade, Speaker

Dangerous Love Affairs

Intro: Good morning and welcome to Let The Bible Speak. It is really good to have you with us today. We appreciate you tuning into our broadcast. This morning I want to talk to you about some dangerous love affairs. Falling in love with someone or something can be a wonderful experience so long as the person or thing is good. However to fall in love with something that is detrimental to our spiritual well being is dangerous. In first John chapter 2:15-17 John warns us about falling in love with the world. In fact he tells us to "love not the world, or the things in it." In just a moment we will notice several things that present a great danger to the child of God, things that we should avoid. Love is a very powerful emotion. The Scriptures speak of it as one of man's highest attributes.

1Cor. 13:13 "And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love." There will come a time when "faith will become sight" and "that for which we hope will become a reality." Love is spoken of as the greatest of these because it will extend into the eternal realm. "God is Love," and "Love never fails."

Since love is powerful, and can be a blessing, when channeled in the right direction, it can also be detrimental when channeled in the wrong direction. If my love for God and right can cause me to become obedient to Him, my love for the world can lead me astray and into condemnation. Let us notice some dangerous love affairs.

I. "Men shall be lovers of their own selves 1Tim. 3:2 It is dangerous to fall in love with your self. Luke 18:10-12 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'" People who love themselves are self-centered. That is they are absorbed in self. Some are so self-centered that they can't appreciate a funeral sermon because they are not the corpse about whom nice things are said. The rich man of Luke 12:16-21 was only interested in self.

Notice how many times he says I. "What shall I do" "I will do this" "I will tear down my old barns" "I will say to my soul" He was obsessed by self, he was in love with himself."

People in love with self need to learn to deny self. Mt. 16:24 "If any man come after me..." People in love with self need to learn to "think of others," "do good to others" "praise others" "pray for others" and "love for others."

II. The Love of Money 1Timothy 6:10.

"For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

A love affair with money has led many to down the road to destruction. Money is not, in itself sinful. Riches in and of themselves have no moral character. The haste to be rich or the desire for wealth involve serious social and moral risks. It is these risks that often "drown men in destruction and perdition." The temptation to unjust gain will lead men into the snare of the devil. When one sacrifices principle and abandons conscientious scruples, in a hurry to accumulate wealth he has become a part of a love affair that drowns men in disappointment and destruction. The germ of all kinds of evil lie in the love of money. It will lead to fear, malice, deceit, oppression, envy, bribery, perjury, and contentiousness. The results often are: Apostasy or "wander away from the faith."

The shipwreck of the faith. The surrender of these principles. The rejection of Christian principles. The Love of money also causes one to "pierce themselves through with many sorrows." The pangs of conscience torment those whose love for money led them into sin and away from the church. They are rich, but not happy. They have but are not satisfied. What a dangerous love affair.

III. The Love of the Praise of Men.

John 12:42-43 "Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God." Mt. 6:5 "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men to be seen of them. Otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven." A dangerous love affair ensues when one comes to respect the person of man more than the approval of God.

1. Children who adopt the religion of their parents rather than listen to the word of God.

Luke 14:26 "Whoever loves father and mother more than me is not worthy of me..."

2. Christians who choose to obey civil authority rather than the teachings of Christ. Acts 5:29 "But Peter and the other apostles answered and said We ought to obey God rather than man." (They had been commanded to not preach in the name of Jesus)

3. Preachers who preach what people want to hear rather than preach the truth. Acts 20:26-27

"Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men, for I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God." The praise of men is fickle, deceptive and passing. The praise of God is stable and eternal.

IV. Men Love Darkness Rather Than Light.

John 3:19 "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." In the scriptures darkness is used as a symbol of sin, of wickedness and error.

Those who are enamored by sin don't like to be exposed, hence they avoid the light which reveals the true nature of their actions. Light dispels darkness and the truth drives out error. Anyone who prefers error to truth and wrong-doing to righteousness will reject the light. They don't want their works reproofed. Eph. 4:17-19 "This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: who being past feeling have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness." The lovers of darkness are described as: the sleazy, slimy, world of immorality including adultery, fornication, homosexuality, murder, inventors of evil things, etc. etc. This love affair with darkness has led many an unsuspecting soul to destruction. (The prodigal of Luke 15)

V. The Love For The World.

1 John 2:15-17 The "World" in these verses identifies a "sphere of evil" an "evil order" which is opposed to God. The love people have for "this world" is their "evil desire" for it. "Love not the world, no not either, the things of the world." "Don't love the world, no, nor anything that may be in it." One may repudiate the world, but hold onto one thing in it. The Young Ruler is an example. "One thing thou lackest" He wanted to follow Jesus, but his love for riches kept him from doing so. So today many find "one thing" that stands between them and living the Christian life. Riches, ease, a farm, or business, desire for fame or worldly honor etc. "All that is in the world:

1. Lust of the flesh---evil desire which finds its origin in the flesh and through the flesh finds expression. Gal. 5:16

2. Lust of the eye---desires awakened through the appeal of objects of sight.

3. Vainglory of life---vanity, pride, worldly pride.

Many have fallen in love with the world. Demas made this mistake. According to 2Timothy 4:10 he ceased loving and longing for the coming of Christ. He did not "love his appearing" v. 8 He fell in love with this present world, or present age. Perhaps the cares of this world and the delight in riches had choked the word from his heart. He deserted the great apostle, and turned his back on both him and his Lord, for the world. Like Lot's wife who looked back and turned to a pillar of salt. What a sad commentary. One that is repeated all too often.

VI. Love of Pleasure.

2Timothy 3:4 "traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God." Whether or not sinful pleasure is not stated, since the word used applies to all pleasures, even those that may be said to be innocent. The love of pleasure has the potential of robbing the soul of its love for God. In the parable of the sower, it will be remembered that the cares and riches and pleasures were the thorns that choked out the word. Samson loved pleasure, which eventually led to his downfall. Belshazzar loved pleasure and threw a banquet that resulted in his death. Dan. 5 Many today are so immersed in pleasure that they have no time for God, His word, the church are anything spiritual. People who fall in love with pleasure pave the way for spiritual disaster.

VII. They Loved Not Their Lives Unto Death.

Rev. 12:11 "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death." These Christians under consideration here conquered because of the blood of the Lamb. The blood of Christ, shed for the sins of all mankind, was the divine provision for the deliverance and triumph, of all sinners. These saints here mentioned triumphed because they held fast to the word of God. They did not waver, but stood firm even in the face of persecution and death. They possessed the "martyr spirit" i.e. even though they may not be called upon to die for the Name, they had confessed, they must "love not their life even unto death."

Rev. 2:10 "Be thou faithful unto death." Not until death, but unto death. The saint must be willing to die for Christ. There are many examples of this kind of sacrifice.

John the Baptist Mt. 14, Steven Acts 7, Paul 2Tim. 4. If you are in love with you life to the point that you would not die for the Lord, you are engaged in a love affair that will rob you of heaven.