

The Fallacy of “Falling in Love”

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Introduction: The World’s Idea of “Falling in Love.”

- A. Waiting to “fall in love.”
 - 1. To many people, love is something you must wait for, a wonderful feeling and experience that just happens to you *without choice or volition*.
- B. Society has been indoctrinated to believe that one’s happiness depends on “falling in love.” (e.g., TV shows, movies, romance novels, “love songs”, etc.).
 - 1. The world teaches that to be “in love” is to be truly happy and complete.
- C. Do you believe in “falling in love”?
 - 1. A belief that may appear to be harmless fun can in fact lead to very foolish and disastrous decisions that can affect the rest of one’s life.
 - 2. “Falling in love” is in fact a concept *foreign* and *contrary* to what the Scriptures teach true love to be.

I. Love is not a “Trap” That We Helplessly “Fall into.”

- A. The world describes love like a powerful, irresistible force that one “falls into.”
 - 1. “Falling in love” suggests that love is a trap into which one falls and having fallen in; one is a helpless victim, unable to free oneself from it!
 - 2. If you are overtaken by this power then you can’t help but “love” this person regardless of what wisdom may say (**Prov. 7:4-5; 18, 22**).
- B. The belief of “falling in love” can lead to foolish choices and hardship.
 - 1. In dating, many people allow *feelings* of romance sweep them away that they end up making poor choices for companionship (**Judges 16:4, 15**).
 - 2. Many Christians have unwisely dated, believing they were “in love” despite the fact they were no good for them spiritually (**2 Cor. 6:14**).
 - 3. The belief of “falling in love” can lead great difficulty in marriage.
 - a. When a marriage is not build upon “the Rock” (**Mat. 7:24-27**), when true biblical love is absent, unhappiness is the result.
 - 4. This false idea of “falling in love” causes people to believe that if they should ever “fall out of love” that they should divorce!
 - 5. Many who have extramarital affairs say they just couldn’t help themselves because they were “in love.” (**Heb. 13:4**)!
 - 6. Many have divorced and unlawfully married another, claiming to be “in love” with another (**Mal. 2:14-16**; e.g., **Mark 6:17-18**; cf. **Mat. 19:9**).

II. Love is Often Confused with Lust, Infatuation, or “Romantic Feelings”

- A. People often confuse love with lust.
 - 1. Entertainment of the world *constantly* teaches this falsehood.
 - 2. Sexual desire for another does not equal love! (e.g., **Gen. 34:2-3**)
 - 3. No one should get married *just* to avoid sexual lust or fornication (**1 Cor. 7:2**); love is also required for marriage (**Eph. 5:25; Titus 2:4**).
- B. People often confuse love with an infatuation or physical attraction.
 - 1. To have an *infatuation* is to have a foolish, unreasoning, extravagant or impulsive passion or attraction for someone (e.g., **2 Sam. 11**).
 - 2. Some infatuations may lead to love, but infatuation does not *equal* love!
- C. People often confuse love with romantic feelings or emotional experiences.

1. While love in dating and marriage may, *in part*, be demonstrated in this way, it is not the *foundation* to true love nor the test of real love.
2. Feelings or emotional experiences can in fact be quite deceiving, convincing us that we have “fallen in love.” (**Prov. 14:12**).

III. True Love According to the Word of God.

A. Choose *true* love.

1. Those that date to find their “true love” need to find someone to love who will, *first of all*, love God even more than you! (**Luke 10:27**).
2. Physical attraction has its importance (**Song of Solomon**), but choosing to love someone who will choose to love you in return is most important!
3. For any relationship to last, both people need to be committed to love one another (**Col. 3:14**).

B. Love is a choice!

1. Many look for their “perfect match” to find true love, yet the truth is, for any marriage to work, both the husband and wife must choose to love each other (**Gen. 24:4, 67**); *God commands it!* (**Eph. 5:25; Titus 2:4**).
2. This means that even when you don’t have romantic feelings, you make the *choice* to love your husband or wife *everyday*.

C. Love is more than sheer emotion or simple affection; it is demonstrated by our behavior and our deeds.

1. Love may be expressed by our emotions (**2 Cor. 2:4**) and love in marriage certainly may be expressed by physical affection (**Song 1:2**).
2. Yet, genuine love is seen best by our behavior (**1 Cor. 13:4-8**) and our deeds (**1 John 3:18**); it is indeed a “*labor of love*” (**1Thes. 1:3**).

D. Love involves a sacrificial devotion to others (**John 15:12-13**).

1. In the majority of N.T. Scriptures that contain the word love, the word comes from the Greek word AGAPE (i.e., “*To seek the highest good for another, a sacrificial, persevering, unyielding benevolence*”).
2. This love is far superior to the world’s concept of love because it is based on the *giving* of ourselves to others, not mere emotions (**Phil. 2:4**).

E. Genuine love is demonstrated by forgiveness and the commitment to work out the problems that arise in marriage.

1. Those that have unrealistic fantasies about marriage or confuse love with feelings of infatuation will soon be sorely disappointed to learn that marriage is not perfect, carefree, “love-dovey”, romantic fun all the time!
2. Those who *choose* to love their spouse will have a readiness to forgive and will have realistic expectations of marriage (**1 Pet. 4:8; Prov. 10:12**).
3. Whenever it is challenging to forgive your spouse, remember God’s willingness to forgive us in Christ (**Eph. 4:32**).

F. Love can be cultivated or “rekindled” with effort (**Heb. 10:24-25**).

1. To be loved, you must work to “stir up” love in others.
2. Don’t wait for him/ her to “fall in love.” “Stir” him or her up to love.
3. One way to stir up love is to *encourage* (give courage to the heart).

Conclusion: Put Away the Notion of “Falling in Love” and Choose to Love the Way God Commands. This is a Sure Foundation for a Strong and Happy Marriage.