

# What Love Is This?

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Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

Matthew 16:21-23 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

John 21:15-17 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Proverbs 28:26 He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.

Matthew 15:19-20 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashed hands defileth not a man.

James 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

Matthew 26:69-75 Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee. But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest. And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth. And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man. And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee. Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crew, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.

- I. The human heart is so treacherous that even our love can become Satanic.
  - A. Jesus declared this to be so when Peter opposed what He had just told them about his upcoming rejection, suffering, crucifixion and resurrection.
  - B. Peter's motivation for saying what he did was his love for Christ.
    - 1. His affection and emotional attachment to Jesus would not bare the prospect of his rejection, suffering, and death.
    - 2. It appears that the part about being raised on the third day did not register with Peter at the time.
  - C. But Peter's love for Christ was of the selfish kind.

...for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. (v. 23)

- 1. It was human love for another - not divine love with its source in God.
- 2. It was the kind of love that put itself first and denied even God himself.

3. It was not the kind of love that was willing to sacrifice everything to save others.
  4. It is this kind of love that Satan can insert himself into.
- D. Peter was still operating in the realm of selfishness, and it is proven by what he did when he was by the fire and denied Christ.
1. He did that in order to save himself.
  2. His love for Christ, although it was heartfelt and real, was still a selfish love that sought its own rather than the kingdom of God.

**Matthew 6:33** But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

- E. We can understand the difference in this kind of love by looking at some examples.
1. People who love their children too much to discipline them.
  2. People who love someone so much they are willing to lie to them to keep them from being hurt.
  3. When people do things like this it is their own feelings they are shielding and looking after.
- F. If Peter were to have his way in this matter he would abort the whole plan of God from the foundation of the world, and all would be lost to God and his kingdom.
- G. Peter is so wrong here and so invaded by Satanic thinking that Jesus rebuked him by speaking directly to Satan.
- H. Most of the love professed today for Jesus is of the type Peter had at this point in his life.
1. Most love Jesus like they love another person.
  2. Most do not love Him as Almighty God, but as a superhero, friend, and pal.
  3. Most people interfere more in God's work than cooperate with God in his work.
  4. They do it out of love for others and what they consider their love for God.
  5. But it is primarily to spare their own feelings from being hurt by the suffering of others.
- II. Peter had to learn some things in order to get things right with the Lord from this point on in his life.
- A. He had to learn to not put his feelings first, and in fact lay them aside completely.
  - B. Not to discern the will of God by feelings.
  - C. Not to follow his heart.
  - D. He had to learn to put the word of God first, no matter what he felt or thought himself.
  - E. He had to learn to discern right and wrong by the word of God and not by his feelings.
  - F. He had to learn to believe and trust God and his word no matter what the circumstances seemed to say.
  - G. He had to learn that for God's work to go forward he had to deny himself and all that was in him.
  - H. He had to learn that to love God with all the heart, mind, soul, and strength is to trust Him completely with all that He is doing.
  - I. He had to learn to stop thinking of himself as the savior of the Lord and realize that the Lord is the Savior.