

2025-11-01 Lust verses Love

At a conference on religion a priest, a minister and Rabbi Irving were all asked the same question, "What would you like people to say about you after you die?"

The priest said, "I hope that people will say that I was able to rise above the scandals that are plaguing the Catholic Church at this time. I hope that people would say that I was able to shepherd my flock through this crisis and help them to understand the absolute love that God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit have for all of them as Catholics."

The minister then said, "When I die I hope that people will say that I saved many souls by bringing them to the Lord. I hope that I will be remembered as a caring, thoughtful man who always spread the Word, the love of God and a faith everlasting in God. I hope that my preaching will be carried on in my memory and to the glory of the Lord."

Finally, Rabbi Irving was asked, "Rabbi, what do you hope people will say about you after you have died?"

Without pausing, the rabbi answered, "Look. He's breathing."

## **Slide #1 Questions**

Get out your sheet of paper

People watching video get a piece of paper, write the question down

Answer the question honestly before you hear this message

You will get to keep your paper, no one else will see your answers

You can change your seat to keep anyone else from seeing your answers

Married people: Ruach Ha Kodesh wants each of you to honestly answer why am I married?

Singles who want to get married:

Ruach Ha Kodesh wants each of you to honestly answer, why do I want to be married?

Single person who doesn't want to get married

Or a married person who doesn't want to be married any more

Ask yourself why don't I want to get or stay married?  
 Give everyone time to answer, play some music in background  
 Put the sheet of paper away until later

*Exodus 20:14 "Do not commit adultery." ...לֹא תִנָּאֵף*

Dictionary - adultery defined as married person having sexual relations  
 With someone other than their spouse – male or female

Or a single person having sexual relations with a married person

*Leviticus 20:10 "The man who commits adultery with another man's wife, who commits adultery with his friend's wife, both the adulterer and the adulteress should surely be put to death."*

In Torah, adultery, along with many other sexual sins, like incest, bestiality

Homosexuality is a capital crime, like murder, punishable by death

Because we understand that disobedience to God's laws causes many issues

Trials, diseases, catastrophes, trauma, emotional & mental problems

I'm led to seek to uncover all possible ways we could be disobeying

So my interpretation of God's commands tends to be very broad

But, my broad interpretation of meaning God's commandments

Is **narrow** compared to Yeshua's

Yeshua gives His interpretation of its meaning in the SOTM

*Matthew 5:27 "You have heard that our fathers were told, 'Do not commit adultery.'*

*28 But I tell you that a man who looks at a woman with the purpose of lusting after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."*

Of course, this also holds with the genders reversed,

*a woman who looks at a man with the purpose of lusting after him*

Yeshua broadens the definition of adultery from having sexual relations

With a person to whom we are not married

To looking with the purpose of lusting

So, we need to understand what He meant by lusting

Greek – epithymesai - to covet, long for, set the heart upon

Lusting by a man can be for a real woman, or by a woman for a real man

Or lust's object can be an image of a woman or man, i. e. pornography

Or lust's object can be a thing – house, car, degree

Or a position - job, ministry, fame

Or a good accomplishment – award, championship

Or an evil accomplishment - revenge

What is the relationship between lust & love?

Lust for a person is the opposite of love

Love seeks the welfare of the beloved person

Lust seeks to use the lusted after person for the luster's gratification

Rather than to sacrifice, give to, help or bless lusted after person

A lusting man doesn't look at a woman or a picture of a woman & think

How can I help her, care for her, sacrifice for her, what are **her** needs?

He thinks how having her will make **him** feel good

Lust makes people think of other people as **objects** to be used

To satisfy the luster's desires, rather than as other people, creations of God

Warning -Yeshua's interpretation makes this a convicting subject for all of us

I am thankful in US adultery in the heart is not punishable by death

Or I wouldn't be alive, along with many of you

But, Yeshua's words should also make you see the gravity of lusting

He declared it **equivalent to** adultery, a capital offense

This verse had very powerful effect in my life

The Lord used it to show me I was a sinner

Because in my youth I **majo**red in disobeying this command

But, before I read Yeshua's interpretation I didn't know it was sin

Let's broaden our understanding beyond lusting **sexually**

Lusting for **anything** is breaking God's commands, His 1<sup>st</sup> Commandment

*Exodus 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before Me.*

When you lust after something, any person, thing, position, achievement, etc.

You are doing what God has forbidden

Because you are giving that thing higher priority in your life than obeying God

Therefore lusting **is** idolatry & a violation of the First Commandment

So, lusting has a destructive effect on your relationship with God

Lusting is also coveting, wanting to own/have control over someone or thing

So it also violates the 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment

*17 "Do not covet your neighbor's house, your neighbor's wife, his manservant, his maidservant, his ox, his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."*

Why is Yeshua's interpretation of adultery so broad?

He sees your heart & knows what is good for you and what is destructive  
Lusting after another person, even without an adulterous relationship with them

Has a destructive effect on a marriage, or on a single person's life  
(KJV) *James 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.*

*15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

If you give in to the temptation to lust you will succumb to the sin it conceives

Lusting sexually gives rise to strong sexual feelings, desires, urges

Eventually it will lead you to engage in other sinful sexual behavior

Such as adultery, fornication

This command is much harder to keep today than in Yeshua's days

Back then people didn't dress like they do today

They didn't have the internet, TV, movies, videos, magazines

Lusting and/or adultery is also a violation of another Commandment

*Numbers 30:2 Whenever a man makes a vow to Adonai or swears an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he is not to violate his word but do everything coming out of his mouth.*

Lusting &/or adultery by a married person breaks this command because

Because both lusting & adultery violate marriage vows

Which always include vows to love, cherish only your spouse  
& when people are married by a minister

It meaning the vows are to each other are also **to** the Lord

So, adultery visibly breaks those vows made to each other and the Lord

While lusting sexually breaks those vows in an **invisible yet real** way

What should a married person do when marriage vows

Are broken by their spouse? That's too big a big subject for today

Come talk to me privately if you need to

Immediately following Yeshua's interpretation of the commandment

Not to commit adultery in Sermon on the Mount He says something very shocking

*Matthew 5:29 If your right eye makes you sin, gouge it out and throw it away!  
Better that you should lose one part of you than have your whole body thrown  
into Gey-Hinnom.(Hell)*

By this shocking statement following immediately after  
 His interpretation of the command not to commit adultery  
 Understand He's not saying to literally gouge out an eye  
 He's saying to realize this & any sin can keep you out of heaven  
 Land you in hell, make life on Earth a hell  
 You need to do everything you can, sacrifice all you can to stop sinning  
 Since Yeshua equates adultery with lust  
 To avoid adultery you must overcome lust  
 So, why **do** people lust sexually? There are biological forces at work in us  
 God created you with hormones that assure you have a desire to reproduce  
 But, He expects you to be in control of those hormones  
 So you can be obedient to His commands  
 Another major reason some of you are vulnerable to temptation to lust is that  
 You don't feel loved, don't have assurance you are loved  
 Don't feel good about yourself or your life, don't feel valued  
 Some of you don't love or value yourself so you can't believe  
 Anyone else would love you, even God  
 Usually happens when the people in your life that are supposed to  
 Make you feel loved & valued, i. e. parents & family, don't fulfill that role  
 So, people search for love in all the wrong places  
 Fantasizing over pornography or in adulterous relationships  
 So, where are you supposed to find the love you need?  
 Love that makes you feel secure, protected, accepted, valued?  
 For both singles and married people only God can be the source  
 Of your knowledge, feeling, confidence that you are loved, have a purpose  
 You need to be receiving that kind of love from Him, His Ruach  
 How? By cultivating an intimate relationship with Him  
 Through worship, Bible reading, prayer, study, listening  
 Getting to the place in that time with Him of experiencing His love  
 My way, read word, listen to 2 worship songs, be quiet & listen for His voice  
 Songs that express my love for God & proclaim His love for me  
 Asking Him to fill me with His Ruach  
 If you are not walking daily immersed in His love  
 As a single person you may look to another person to fill that void

And lust after that person, or look to pornography  
 As a married person you may look to someone other than your spouse  
 To fill that void & fall into adultery, or pornography  
 We usually think of the gratification of lust as being physical, sexual  
 But people also seek relationships for their own emotional gratification  
 To make them feel accepted, loved, secure, safe, desirable  
 To make them feel good, physically &/or emotionally  
 & **that** motivation is not love it is lust  
 Because of the warped understanding of love we have from our culture  
 We also have a warped understanding of lust  
 So, we need to understand what the Bible says love is like  
 To see that lust is the opposite of love  
 Yeshua told us how you are to love each other, including spouses  
*John 15:12 "This is my command: that you keep on loving each other just as I have loved you.*  
*13 No one has greater love than a person who lays down his life for his friends.*  
 You are to love as Yeshua loved, laying down your life  
 Your needs, wants, desires, dreams for the person whom you love  
 You are to sacrifice yourself, give to, help or bless the other person  
 You're to make the other person feel good, meet their needs  
 Love is a giving, not a taking  
 It motivates you to give without regard for your own needs or desires  
 But, who will take care of your needs?  
 You each need to trust in the love of God to take care of your needs  
 So you can pour out His love to others, especially your spouse  
 Not only material needs but your need for love, acceptance  
 Encouragement, fulfillment, purpose, fruitfulness  
 You can't look to your spouse to meet your need to be loved  
 Because humans, being human, will always fail you  
 I know this from experience, I have failed many times  
 To love Diane, my children, friends  
 Of course at times people have also failed to love me in the way I've needed  
 Your need for love, acceptance, encouragement can only be met  
 By God Himself because **His** love is infinitely big

& He's always there for you, never too busy  
 Your need for love can only be met through your having  
 An intimate relationship with God  
 Cultivated by spending time with Him in worship, prayer, listening  
 His word & serving Him  
 Lusting after another person, even without an adulterous relationship with them  
 Has a destructive effect on a marriage, or on a single person's life  
*1 Thessalonians 4:3 What God wants is that you be holy, that you keep away  
 from sexual immorality,  
 4 that each of you know how to manage his sexual impulses in a holy and  
 honorable manner,  
 5 without giving in to lustful desires, like the pagans who don't know God.  
 6 No one should wrong his brother in this matter or take advantage of him,  
 because the Lord punishes all who do such things - as we have explained to you  
 before at length.  
 7 For God did not call us to live an unclean life but a holy one.*  
 This understanding of the difference between lust & love  
 Is very important to all single people hoping to find a spouse  
 And to all married people whose relationships with their spouses  
 Can always improve  
 It also applies to other desires of your heart beyond romantic relationships  
 If you desire material things, money, homes, cars, clothes, jewelry, art  
 The latest tech device to make you feel fulfilled in life, that's lust  
 If you desire children so you will feel fulfilled in life that's not love, it's lust  
 If you desire education careers, skills, positions because you think  
 Having them will make you accepted, admired, fulfilled, that's lust  
 Those desired positions & skills can include ministry  
 If your motive for these desires is your own self fulfillment, gratification  
 Those things have become idols  
 This is why the Bible speaks of idolatry as **lusting** after other gods  
 Apply this understanding of lust to 2 groups of people  
 Singles who are hoping to get married  
 & already married people  
 Get out your sheet of paper

**Start with singles who want to get married, your question was:**

**Why do I want to be married?**

Look at your answers - if your honest answers are something like - so I

Won't be lonely, will feel loved, accepted, secure

Can have someone to help through my struggles, take care of me

Can experience sexual pleasure

Can fit in with my married friends, meet my parents' expectations

Can have children I've always wanted

Or in case of single moms, can have a father for my children

Answers like these reveal that you are looking for a spouse

To gratify **your** desires, meet **your** needs rather than

A person for **you** to give love to

That is, you are **lust**ing for a spouse rather than seeking a spouse to love

That is also selfishness

Here's how the Lord revealed the importance of this to me

Ruach Ha Kodesh brought a question to my mind

"Do you think I would send a spouse to a person who

Is looking for someone to meet their needs, satisfy their desires

Rather than looking for a person to love?"

Answer was clear to me; "No, Lord if You did You would be setting up

The person you sent for failure, heartbreak & disaster"

You will only send spouses to people who are ready to love them

Love is giving, it is meant to be poured out

How can you be a person who can pour out love to a future spouse?

*Romans 5:5 ... God's love for us has already been poured out in our hearts through the Ruach HaKodesh who has been given to us.*

Ruach Ha Kodesh will pour God's love in your heart

But, you need an intimate, loving relationship with the Lord

So He can pour His love in

He must be the source of the love in your heart

With which you can love others

He must also be the source of you knowing you are loved

Those of us who have been married for a while know that

Rather than being a source of personal gratification



Marriage greatly stretches your ability to lay down your life & love  
 It requires you to seek God to fill you with **His** love  
 Before you can pour out His love

Bottom line for singles: don't expect God to send a spouse to you until

You get rid of the lust/selfishness and are ready to love your future spouse

**Married people, your question was why am I married?**

Look at your answers - if your honest answers are something like - so I

Won't be lonely, will feel loved, accepted, secure

Can have someone to help through my struggles, take care of me

Can experience sexual pleasure, help raise our children

Answers like these reveal that you are expecting your spouse

To gratify your desires, meet your needs rather than loving your spouse

That is you are lusting for your spouse rather than loving your spouse

Married people need to realize your love for your spouse

Has been diluted by some infiltration of lust/selfishness

The Lord asked me "Do you think I can bless a marriage where

One spouse is expecting the other to meet their needs,

Satisfy their desires, rather than loving that spouse?

Answer was clear to me; "No, you can only bless marriages

In proportion to how much each spouse loves the other"

Love is giving, it is meant to be poured out

The only way you can pour it out to your spouse is to have

An intimate, loving relationship with the Lord

So He can pour His love in

He must be the source of the love in your heart

With which you can love others

Answers like these reveal that you are looking for a person

To gratify **your** desires, meet **your** needs rather than

A person for **you** to give love to

That is, you are lusting for a spouse rather than seeking a spouse to love

3<sup>rd</sup> category – a single person who doesn't want to get married

Or a married person who doesn't want to be married any more

Your question was why don't I want to get or stay married?

If your honest answers are something like - so I

Can do things my way & not have to compromise with a spouse  
 Don't have to deal with another person's struggles or needs  
 Don't have to crucify my flesh to meet a spouse's needs  
 Can fulfill my dreams of having & doing things I like  
 Can have the peace of being alone more often  
 Can have more time & energy to serve the Lord

It may be how God is directing you, not everyone is supposed to be married  
*1 John 4:12 No one has ever seen God. If we love one another, God abides in us and His love is made perfect in us.*

Or they may be your answers because God's love

Has not been made perfect in you **yet**, you're a work in progress

How would a person ready to love a future spouse with God's love

Or a person who loved their spouse with God's love answer the question

Why do I want to be married? Or why am I married?

So I can love another person in a greater

& more intimate way with the love God has loved me with

So I can lay down my life to serve my spouse, care for him/her

So I can have the joy of seeing my spouse be fruitful, joyful, fulfilled

So I can pour out God's love on the person He has chosen for me

If you didn't answer that question like this

You need to repent of lusting & go before the Lord

& ask Him to do heart surgery, clean out the selfishness, lust

Singles: ask Him to shift your focus from seeking a spouse

To meet your needs and for your own gratification

To seeking a spouse to love with the love of God

Married people: ask Him to shift your focus from expecting your spouse

To meet your needs, bring you gratification

To loving your spouse with the love of God

Some of you, maybe all of you answered with a mixture

Of self-gratifying, lusting answers & loving answers, I would too

Congratulations on the loving answers, you're following Yeshua's footsteps

But, we also need to repent of the self-gratifying answers

& pray for God to cleanse our hearts of selfishness

All of us, singles married people need to ask similar questions

About other desires of our hearts

Why do I want children, education, career, skills, a home, ministry

Money, car, jewelry, the latest tech device

If the honest answer is because you believe having them will make you

Accepted, admired, fulfilled, that's lust

If your motive for these desires is your own self fulfillment, gratification

These things have become idols

What should your motivation be? To serve the Lord out of love for Him

*Colossians 3:23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,*

Heartily, means with all your heart as to the Lord

As to the Lord means as if He were your direct supervisor

He were the one requesting you do the thing He wants you to do

*24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord the Messiah.*

What is the reward?

*Matthew 25:23 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things.*

*Enter into the joy of your lord.'*

This joy is your reward, it is way beyond natural joy

It includes fulfillment, purpose, acceptance, gratification

It is the joy only He can bestow

It only comes when you are in that intimate relationship through

Worship, prayer, study of His word, fellowship, serving

Prayer

Lord I recognize I have looked to a future or current spouse

To be my source of physical and/or emotional gratification

Love, acceptance, security

I recognize that expectation as lust

I take responsibility for entertaining the lie that other people can

Meet these needs when only You can meet these needs

I forgive anyone who has not met that expectation in my life

I repent of looking to anyone other than you

To be the source of love, gratification in my life

I repent of lusting after a spouse or future spouse

I put my trust in Yeshua's atoning sacrifice to purchase my forgiveness

I receive Your forgiveness

I recognize I have looked to material things, money, homes, cars, clothes, jewelry, art, latest tech gadget, having children, education careers, skills, positions, ministry

Because I have believed having them

Will make me accepted, admired, fulfilled

I repent of looking to anything other than you

To be the source of love, gratification in my life

I repent of lusting after these things

I put my trust in Yeshua's atoning sacrifice to purchase my forgiveness

I renounce all lust, selfishness, self gratifying attitudes in my heart

I submit my heart to You as Great Heart Surgeon, do surgery on my heart

To remove all lust, selfishness, self seeking, ungodly expectations

I remove every spirit of lust that has gained power over me

Through my entertaining these attitudes

Every selfish, self promoting, self gratifying idolatrous spirit

Replace these spirits with Your Ruakh, fill me with Him

Give me the ability to discern their attempts to return, help me resist them

Renew my mind to think your thoughts to "*lay down my life for my friends.*"

To be able to receive Your love

To have discipline to connect to Your vine & receive Your love regularly

***To do whatever You would have me do heartily, with all my heart, as to you and not to men***

Give me faith that I ***will receive the reward of the inheritance***

Grow my relationship with You

I rejoice in what You are going to do

