

4/14/24

Welcome
Prayer

Review

We left off looking at 3 stages of the Bride's growth as revealed in her statements about her relationship to her Groom
[Song 2:16 My beloved is mine, and I am his;](#)

Stage 2 Declaration – youthful / recognizing Lordship
[Song 6: 3 "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine](#)

Stage 3 Declaration – self-abandoned, a mature Christian
[Song 7: 10 "I am my beloved's, And his desire is for me.](#)

The end was that we want security as a church and like the woman who seeks to control the home in the presence of husband who does nothing, the church will become militant

Primary method of purifying the community is through politics

- literally, politics
- getting morally questionable things banned etc.
- [Frank](#) Peretti's This Present Darkness outlines this

Example

[Psalm 127: Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman keeps awake in vain](#)

In the prepper movement around the country / here, I see many who are spending an inordinate amount of money, time, and effort to secure their homes. They are so ready to take up arms and shoot anyone who traverses their driveway.

- They have every style of weapon for every occasion
- They have just the right caliber with just the right type of bullet and powder load
- They have the right tools for seeing in the dark so they can flank and take down
- They spend weekends in courses designed to eliminate a threat

And

- They basically have no dedicated one-on-one alone time with Jesus, they just go to church and serve.

What if Jesus had displayed this same attitude when He was here on Earth, pray when it's convenient?

What if he were ALL ABOUT security & self defense?

- "Yeah, but you GOTTA have security..."

There's such a chasm between that and where we're supposed to be.

My question to this is what good will this security do you if/when you are overrun by illegals and you're facing death?

- Doesn't it make sense to fish, and when there are NO fish to come in?
 - It makes zero sense to throw the net on the other side of the boat.
- Doesn't it make sense if you're anointed king to kill the guy who is immorally trying to kill you?
 - It makes zero sense to stay your hand when the entire kingdom can be yours.
- Doesn't it make sense to make wise business decisions and become wealthy so you can help others?
 - It makes zero sense to sell all that you have, give it to the black hole of poor people, and come, follow Jesus
- Doesn't it make sense to make an alliance with a foreign army to overtake an imminent threat?
 - It makes zero sense to cut your 32,000 man army down to 300, and arm them with guitars and cell phone lights, then send them to battle
- Doesn't it make sense to just know you're true to Christ, but bow down at the sound of the chime just to keep the brown shirts off your back?
 - It makes zero sense to stand up and say, "No, we ain't doin' that even if it means you are going to toss us into the fiery furnace"

Point – walking by faith not by sight – “Looks” very different from what we might be used to.

Our salvation depends entirely on the completed work of Christ.

What if He weren't 100% sold out for His Father's will?

It would be hard to abandon ourselves fully to Christ if we thought for an instant He might not obey the Father's will.

So these 3 stages

Stage 1 Declaration – childish / self importance

Song 2:16 My beloved is mine, and I am his;

Stage 2 Declaration – youthful / recognizing Lordship

Song 6: 3 "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine

Stage 3 Declaration – self-abandoned, a mature Christian

Song 7: 10 "I am my beloved's, And his desire is for me.

There are reasons for her expression of love.

In English we use the word “love” and that covers everything and yet we are missing something in translation.

Three greek words for Love:

eros, phileo, agape

(everyone knows this, but stick with me and we'll open up a treasure box for you to engraft into you later)

Eros – lowest Greek word for 'love', it is a 1-way love that moves toward us

- Eros is the god of love, lust, desire and sex
- it is in carnal satisfaction
- self preservation
- Merriam Webster - the sum of life-preserving instincts that are manifested as impulses to gratify basic needs

It is not used in the Bible although it is described in the Song 2:16 'my beloved is mine' / stay me with flagons –

- only capable of responding selfishly to a one-way love which flowed from Solomon to her.

Are there hazards / dangers in a new Christian continuing to operate out of this mode of love?

Caution: In this state or place in Christ, when adversity happens it is common for that person to rage at God saying, "How could you let this happen??"

Phileo – highest type of 'human love'.

It is reciprocated love

It responds to itself and flows in both directions

Wisdom speaks –

Proverbs 8:17 "I love those who love me; And those who diligently seek me will find me.

- If you love me, I will love you.
- If you do not flow love toward me, I will not flow love toward you.
- I am good to you because you are good to me.
- I love you because you are good to me (see this in adolescent / Song 2:16 / 6:3 Christians?)

Phileo is a multi-\$Million word used in all the songs Richard Marx and Steve Perry sang about

Agape – divine love

Like Eros – this is a one-way love as well.

It speaks of sacrifice

John 3: 16 "For God so *loved* the world, that He gave His only begotten Son

thankless job

John 1: 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.

Consider this memorable use of Phileo and Agape in the new testament

After the resurrection, Jesus is restoring Peter after Peter had denied him 3 times.

Peter's confession of love that led to his grief is quite hidden in English and has a different takeaway when seen in the original language.

Peter had recently said

Matthew 26: 35 Peter *said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You." All the disciples said the same thing too.

but then as you know, the rooster bit him

John 21: 15 So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus *said to Simon Peter, "Simon, *son* of John, do you **LOVE** Me more than these?" He *said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I **LOVE** You." He *said to him, "Tend My lambs." ¹⁶ He *said to him again a second time, "Simon, *son* of John, do you **LOVE** Me?" He *said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I **LOVE** You." He *said to him, "Shepherd My sheep." ¹⁷ He *said to him the third time, "Simon, *son* of John, do you **LOVE** Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you **LOVE** Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I **LOVE** You." Jesus *said to him, "Tend My sheep.

John 21: 15 So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus *said to Simon Peter, "Simon, *son* of John, do you **AGAPEO** Me more than these?" He *said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I **PHILEO** You." He *said to him, "Tend My lambs." ¹⁶ He *said to him again a second time, "Simon, *son* of John, do you **AGAPEO** Me?" He *said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I **PHILEO** You." He *said to him, "Shepherd My sheep." ¹⁷ He *said to him the third time, "Simon, *son* of John, do you **PHILEO** Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time,

"Do you PHILEO Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I PHILEO You." Jesus *said to him, "Tend My sheep.

- 1) Do you AGAPEO me? (love me to the point of death) Yes Lord, I PHILEO you, (I'm fond as heck of you)
2) Do you AGAPEO me? (love me to the point of death) Yes Lord, I PHILEO you, (I'm fond as heck of you)

Why might Peter have failed (denied Him 3x before the rooster crowed?)

- Because Peter's original confession of "I would die for you" was less than his experience
- So now he can't use the word AGAPEO
- So he must speak from his level of experience, "I know and am fond of You to the level I know You"

We beat Peter up all the time for this, but if not for his example, we would miss a crucial part of 'growing up'.

- 3) Do you (at least) PHILEO me? Yes Lord, you know all things, you know that I PHILEO you

Peter, unable to rise to the stature of Christ was stuck
Jesus, condescended Himself to Peter's experience, where Peter was and said "Are you at least fond of me?"
This broke Peter.

- "You know all things, Lord, You know that I'm only capable of phileo love, not agape love"

Because Jesus came down to meet Peter where he was in his broken state, Peter's resistance to Christ melted
He came into a more powerful faith, and was fully restored.

So then

Stage 1 Declaration – childish / self importance

Song 2:16 My beloved is mine, and I am his;

- Eros, what can you do for me?
- Love flows only to her, nothing reciprocating

Stage 2 Declaration – youthful / recognizing Lordship

Song 6: 3 "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine

- Phileo – there's really something here in this relationship
- There is a 2-way flow of affection / love

Stage 3 Declaration – self-abandoned, a mature Christian

Song 7: 10 "I am my beloved's, And his desire is for me.

- Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him
- Her love flows out with no care or demand of reciprocation

When someone VERY close to you bites you, it's kind of like water off a duck's back
Not really, with someone like a neighbor

NOW, at this point of unconditional submission & devotion to Christ, she is able to move with Him in ministry to the needs of others OR abide alone with Him in communion

Song 7: 11 "Come, my beloved, let us go out into the country, Let us spend the night in the villages. ¹² "Let us rise early and go to the vineyards; Let us see whether the vine has budded And its blossoms have opened, And whether the pomegranates have bloomed. There I will give you my love.