

7-27-25: A.M.

**Introduction:** I am going to share a message from the Lord with you today that, quite honestly, has not been too well received in the past!

I recall preaching in a church many years ago wherein several of the members had had affairs—with each other!

The tension was so thick, you could have cut it with a knife!

Now, I do not know of any affairs within this church per se but I guarantee you that when I am done, you will see that several of us—if not most of us—have had at some point in our lives!

Let's get started ...

**Scripture Reading/Text:** Matthew 22:34-40

**Key Verse:** V. 37

I want to preach on this subject this morning:

**Subject:** “Some Dangerous Love Affairs!”

**Concentration:** In our text this morning, our Savior commands us that we should *love* God with all our being.

We must be careful to maintain that fellowship and not have an “*affair*” on Him.

Just as there are numerous extra-marital “affairs” today; so are there many, many *spiritual* “*Love Affairs*” that we must watch out for!

Let us now look at some Biblical texts, which show us some dangerous “*love affairs*.”

### I. **Lovers of Your Own Selves—2 Timothy 3:1-2**

#### **2 Timothy 3:1-2 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

<sup>2</sup> For men will be **lovers of themselves**, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

People will *love only themselves* (Greek word): this does not mean the normal and natural love of life and of oneself that we should all have.

**Greek Word:** φίλαυτος

**Transliteration:** philautos

**Phonetic Pronunciation:**  fil'-ow-tos

**Root:** from <G5384> and <G846>

**Cross Reference:**

**Part of Speech:** adj

**Vine's Words:** [Lover](#)

#### **Usage Notes:**

English Words used in KJV:

lover of (one's) own self 1

[Total Count: 1]

from <G5384> (philos) and <G846> (autos); *fond of self*, i.e. *selfish* :- lover of own self.

--Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary.

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It means to be selfish and self-centered.

### 2 Timothy 3:2 (AMP)

<sup>2</sup>For people will be lovers of self *and* [utterly] self-centered, lovers of money *and* aroused by an inordinate [greedy] desire for wealth, proud *and* arrogant *and* contemptuous boasters. They will be abusive (blasphemous, scoffing), disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy *and* profane.

*To be a lover of self is...*

- To focus upon oneself and one's own pleasure and flesh instead of upon God and other people.
- To put oneself before others: wife, husband, parent, child, friend, neighbor, God.
- To put one's own will before God's will.
- To seek one's own desires without considering others.
- To go after what one wants even if it is unwise and hurts others.
- To feel that everyone and everything should revolve around oneself.
- To focus upon one's own pleasure and flesh and ignore the crying needs of the desperate and dying.

*Self-love* sets one up like a god and feels that nothing matters as much as the pleasure of oneself.

In the last days people will love themselves more than they love anyone else.

*Selfishness* will be one of the terrible marks of the last days!!!

## II. Lovers of Pleasure—2 Timothy 3:4

### 2 Timothy 3:4 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup>traitors, headstrong, haughty, *lovers of pleasure* rather than lovers of God,

- “*Love of pleasure destroys the love and sense of God!*”  
—unknown

The popularity of sports on Sunday and weekend get-aways while church attendance declines on Sunday confirms that this problem is certainly with us today.

People today look at church as a “convenient *option!*” In other words, if it's convenient and doesn't interrupt our plans, then we will attend, etc.

If I am not too tired from work, if my nose isn't itching, if I don't feel the need to “sleep-in” and get some much-needed rest (funny isn't how all of that never takes precedence or priority over getting to work the very next day!

## III. Lovers of Money—1 Timothy 6:10

- Note the offspring of this greed in *vss. 9 and 10*:

### 1 Timothy 6:9-10 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup>But those who *desire* [*“will”*] to be rich fall into temptation

and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

<sup>10</sup>For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of evil*, for which some have strayed from the faith in their **greediness**, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

“The ‘desire’ or [*“will”*] here indicates the strong intention, the stated goal and purpose in the pursuit. It is not an accident but a dedicated intention to be rich.” --John Butler - Analytical Bible Expositor – 1 Thessalonians-Philemon.

#### 1 Timothy 6:10 (KJV)

<sup>10</sup>For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some **coveted** after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

“The peril here is not wealth but avarice [ah-va-res]—the great love of money. Money is a very bad thing to love.”

The word “*coveted*” [KJV] conveys the idea of going after something that is not yours.

It speaks of the evil that one will do to get gain when avarice controls his actions.

[**Illus**] He will cheat others, steal from others, lie to others, and be injurious to others to get material gain.

*Covetousness* here involves evil deportment as well as evil desires.

Avarice can be very evil to others.”

--Analytical Bible Expositor - Analytical Bible Expositor – 1 Thessalonians-Philemon.

#### IV. **Lovers of the World—1 John 2:15**

##### 1 John 2:15 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup>Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

(Butler) ...

“This exhortation about worldliness—which is an all-too-common problem with believers.”

• ***The denouncing of the world.*** “*Love not the world*” (1 John 2:15).

“The word “*world*” here represents “human life... apart from, alienated from, and hostile to God, and of the earthly things which seduce from God” (Vincent).”

“Much of the world system is religious, cultured, refined, and intellectual. But it is anti-God and anti-Christ” (Wuest).

“*Love not the world*” (1 John 2:15).

The Apostle Paul said,

##### Colossians 3:2 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup>Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

“Many things one sets his mind on in this world may not be evil in themselves, but they take away devotion and interest in the things of God.

They reflect a greater interest in the here-and-now than in the hereafter.

If you, in your disposition love the world, you reveal that you do not love God.

When you skip church to attend a worldly event on Sunday, you reveal your sinful lack of love for God.”

• **The defilement of the world.** *"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh... eyes... pride of life" (1 John 2:16)*

The world is a defiled place.

The world honors the evil desires of the flesh, eyes and pride.

That is the appeal used by most of the advertisements on radio, TV, newspapers and magazines.

It is Hollywood, TV, and Broadway—lock, stock, and barrel.

It is a favorite philosophy of sinners to say that the wicked desire in them was put there by God so it must be alright to do it.

This text refutes that perverted excuse for sin.

• **The duration of the world.** *"The world is passing away" (1 John 2:17).*

God would have us put our interests, affection, and devotion on things that last.

The typical person gives so much effort to things that last only in this life.

No interest or attention is given to eternal matters.

**But notice** the contrast: *"But he who does the will of God abides forever" (1 John 2:17).*

Some things are lasting.

The will of God is eternal in compensation in contrast to the world which is not.

➤ CF: **James 4:1-4** “adulterers and adulteresses...”

**James 4:1-4 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not *come* from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?

<sup>2</sup> You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

<sup>3</sup> You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.

<sup>4</sup> Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

➤ CF: **John 15:18 (NKJV)**

<sup>18</sup> “*If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.*”

V. **Lovers of the Praise of Men—John 12:43**

**John 12:42-43 (NKJV)**

<sup>42</sup>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;

<sup>43</sup>for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

Some did receive Christ and John reports that in these verses.

Listen to how **John Butler** states it:

- **The status of the receivers.** *"Nevertheless, even among the rulers many believed in Him" (John 12:42).*

Even though unbelief was so rampant, some still believed.

The status of the believers was surprising, for they were rulers in Israel which refers to religious rulers.

Not all the religious leaders of the land rejected Christ.

- **The silence of the receivers.**

These believers were not noble in their faith, however.

They were cowards, for they kept silent about their faith in Christ.

**First**, the **Pharisees** in the silence. *"But because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue" (John 12:42).*

The Pharisees so intimidated people that even the rulers were afraid to confess Christ, for fear of losing their synagogue membership.

Many in every age have refused to confess Christ lest they be kicked out of some prestigious group.

**Second**, the **preference** in the silence. *"They loved the praise of men more than the praise of God" (John 12:43).*

The bottom line here in this cowardly conduct is a great desire for the approval of men more than for the approval of God.

Such a desire ruins many testimonies and lives.

**[Illus]** We focused on this problem last Wednesday night with our devotion from Jer. 9:23-24:

**Jeremiah 9:23-24 (NKJV)**

<sup>23</sup>Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty *man* glory in his might, Nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches;

<sup>24</sup>But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I *am* the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD.

**Conclusion:** Are You having a “dangerous love affair?” In any of these 5 areas?

**Closing:** “*As a Christian, I need to understand that:*”

- My flesh (old nature) is *lazy, lustful*, and will *lead* me away from God and the Spirit-filled life He desires of me!!
- Knowing God, His Word, and His Will for my life should surpass all other worldly goals or accomplishments!

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