

Here is the 2<sup>nd</sup> set of scribblings on love....

### Love is Romantic

According to Plato, love was “a grave mental disease.”

Is romantic love just a cheap variety of genuine love? It seems that Hollywood, Valentine’s Day, popular music, boy-bands, speed-dating, long-distance relationships, have all cheapened the idea of romantic love.

Yet, romantic love is a gift from God – it is the love between a man and a woman – the gift they have from God. It takes the physical side of love and consecrates it with mutual respect and devotion. Read the following verses:

- 1) Song of Solomon 4.9-10 (the king speaking to his lover).
- 2) Song of Solomon 2.5-6 (the lover speaking to the king).
- 3) Song of Solomon 6.5, 10 (the king speaking romantically to his bride).

If you have ever fallen in love, these words should sound familiar.

3 points about romantic love:

First, we can’t hide it. When 2 people fall in love, it is next to impossible to hide it. “He gave her a look you could have poured on a waffle” – romantic love is like this, thick, sweet and terribly obvious. “Two things cannot be hid. One is a cough; the other is love.” Romantic love leaks out despite our best intentions to hide it. It gets noticed.

Second, romantic love is filled with wonder, and so it desires to be close. The longing gaze, the warm fire, the run through the park, the tender laugh – these are moods of wonder and fascination. It is a “strange bewilderment” that overcomes lovers. This kind of love, “gazes and holds its breath and is silent...it rejoices that such a wonder should exist” (C.S. Lewis, Four Loves).

Third, romantic love is intense. When we are lost in romantic love, our perceptions of reality change, we can experience an emotional form of tunnel vision, and often good judgment is suspended.

*My bounty is as boundless as the sea,  
My love as deep.  
The more I give to thee,  
The more I have,  
For both are infinite.*  
(Shakespeare, Romeo and Juliet).

Romantic love is experienced by these three traits: visibility; wonder; and intensity. As long as the relationship is blessed by God, these feelings are perfectly normal.

But, there is more to love than romance. Romantic expressions can be exciting and wonderful, but there is more to love than candlelight and incense. “Being in love is a good thing, but it is not the best

thing....it is a noble feeling, but it is still a feeling...Who could bear to live in that excitement for even five years?" (C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity).

Romantic feelings often get a relationship started, but a quieter love keeps a relationship going. Sparks are good at getting fires started, but it's the glowing embers that keep the fire warm. Still, the sparks are beautiful (Song of Solomon 1.15-16, an interchange between lovers).

**What is my personal application of these thoughts?**

Best wishes,

Conrad.