

Dear everyone, greetings.

I am going to include a few thoughts for the coming 4 Worldviews on 4 dimensions of love. These are a few scribbling to stimulate personal reflection on the love we experience, share and aspire to.

Love is Natural

Read:

- 1) Song of Solomon 7.1, 5b-6.
- 2) Song of Solomon 4.1, 2-3.
- 3) Song of Solomon 5.10-11, 15a, 16a.

There is a poetical, lyrical sense about true love. Love is natural. Natural love is a good thing. The unnatural thing is to ignore the beauty of your spouse / significant other.

Yet, how often do we affirm our love for those we love? Is it sufficient merely to affirm love on your wedding day, and then say nothing more, indicating merely that if anything changes you will let your spouse know?

There is something worthy of praise in everything and every person God creates.

Thomas More wrote:

*Is there a space on earth so dear
As that within the blessed sphere
Two loving arms entwine?*

Yet, Satan has cheapened this natural love, e.g. David and Bathsheba. "You can get a large audience together for a strip-tease act, that is, to watch a girl undress on stage. Now suppose you came to a country where you could fill a theatre simply bringing in a covered plate and then slowly lifting the cover so as to let everyone see, just before the lights went out, that it contained a mutton chop or a bit of bacon, would you not think that in that country something had gone wrong with the appetite for food?" (C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity, Book 3, Chapter 5).

Lust or love? Love makes a man want a particular woman, not just any woman. Love desires the man for who he is, not for the pleasure he can offer.

*Love comforteth like sunshine after rain,
But lust's effect is tempest after sun;
Love's gentle spring doth always remain,
Lust's winter comes ere summer half be done.
Love is all truth;
Lust full of forged lies
(Shakespeare, Venus and Adonis).*

Song of Solomon is about love, not lust. When 2 lovers know their love is a gift from God, they can look at each other and say, "Your beauty is perfect. I love you just the way you are – just because you're you."

This natural affirmation of the other is found continually in Song of Solomon, e.g. 4.7.

What is my personal application?

Best wishes,

Conrad.