

True Love or Infatuation?

How can I know when I am really in love?

"Romantic love" as presented by entertainment industry is not the same as true love.

- 1. Time:** Romantic infatuation may happen suddenly and without warning, whereas true love grows, and all growth takes time. One may "fall" into infatuation, but one cannot fall into love. To love a person, one must know that person well.
- 2. Knowledge:** Romantic infatuation may arise from an acquaintance with only one, or at best a few, characteristics of the other person. Love grows out of an appraisal of the total personality of the other.
- 3. Motivation:** Romantic infatuation is self-centered and looks at the other as a means to an end. Love is other centered, and has the interests of the other person in mind.
- 4. Unity:** True love results in a strong partnership with a mutual response to stressful situations or conflicts. Infatuated persons rely on a state of emotional elation to reassure their relationship. Conflicts and disagreements can cause the elation to vanish quickly, thus threatening the relationship.
- 5. Exclusiveness:** An infatuated person may be "in love" with two or more persons simultaneously, whereas genuine love centers in one person only. Infatuation is fickle by nature.
- 6. Security:** Genuine love tends to have a true sense of security, based upon a settled commitment and a growing range of trust and affection, and mutual concerns. In infatuation, there is insecurity, requiring constant reassurance. This results in possessiveness and unreasonable demands for exclusive rights to the time and activity of the other individual.
- 7. Reality:** An infatuated person tends to maintain an idealized image of the other person, based upon a few characteristics observed in a romantic situation, which does not reflect complete reality. True love sees and accepts the other person as they really are.
- 8. Physical:** Physical attraction plays a much more central role in infatuation. In genuine love, self-discipline increases with consecration to the needs and larger potentials of the beloved.

"When in doubt, WAIT. Time clarifies most of life's issues and enigmas, and certainly the most important issues can afford the test of time."

Put your trust in God (Psa 27:14). If God is truly in it, a little time will not threaten the relationship. A Christian who is learning to walk with God will put his trust in Him for every area of his life, including the provision of a mate. If you are unable or unwilling to wait for a relationship to mature, then it may be your fleshly compulsion and not God's leading (Jas 1:14).

Taken from Design for Christian Marriage, by Dwight Small

Honorable Intentions

How the Character of Christ impacts Dating and Courtship

(G. Wass 10/18/09)

YHWH-tsedeq (The LORD our Righteousness)

Jeremiah 23:6 The conquest and exile by the Babylonians foretold, the remnant will be re-gathered, the righteous Branch(Messiah) will come and rule over them. Not only is He righteous, but He is Righteousness to us.

1. Believe in Christ

2. Marry in the faith

(1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Corinthians 7:10-16)

To be a Christian means I have recognized my need for Christ to be my righteousness. I make the decision now that in the realm of "romance", I will only give my heart to one who shares that conviction.

YHWH-jireh (The LORD will Provide)

Gen 22:14 Abraham was willing to entrust his son Isaac to God as a sacrifice. At the last moment, the LORD stopped Abraham and provided a ram for the sacrifice, just as He has provided Christ as our sacrifice.

1. Trust God

2. Grow and serve

(Romans 8:32)

I choose to entrust this area of my life to God to provide a mate. While I am waiting, I will work to prepare myself, to grow spiritually, and resist the temptation to compromise when things seem bleak.

YHWH-ra-ah (The LORD is my Shepherd)

Psalm 23:1 *As my Good Shepherd, the LORD cares for my needs.*

1. God will provide what I need

2. Be content in the Lord

(Romans 8:5,9; Philippians 4:11)

Jesus satisfies my deepest longings. I will learn to discern between genuine needs and selfish wants.

YHWH-nissi (The LORD is my Banner)

Exodus 17:15 *While Joshua is fighting against Amalek, Aaron and Hur help Moses hold his hands up in prayer, which assures the victory.*

1. The Christian is engaged in a spiritual battle

2. Romantic relationships can be a major spiritual battleground

3. God has provided certain people as part of His protection

(Ephesians 6:1-3; Hebrews 13:17; Proverbs 27:6,17)

I acknowledge that I need God's protection from spiritual dangers. I will also accept and appreciate the people God has put in my life for protection, such as my parents, my church, and my godly friends.

YHWH-qadash (The LORD who Sanctifies)

Leviticus 20:8 *God is jealous & wants our undivided devotion, not dabbling in spirits & mediums or seduced by the culture away from God*

1. Set your priorities

2. Guard your purity

3. Focus on spirit and soul, not body

(Hebrews 13:4; Ephesians 5:25-27; 1 Corinthians 7:2-4' 1 Timothy 5:2; 1 Peter 3:3-4)

Just as God wants our devotion, the husband and wife are to be devoted to each other. I will so order my life that I will only give myself to my life partner.

YHWH-shawmm (The LORD is There)

Ezekiel 48:35 *Ezekiel was given visions from Babylon of the Glory of Lord departing the temple, and then returning in the coming Kingdom, where He will dwell in the new Jerusalem.*

1. Christ is present in the life of the Christian

(Galatians 2:20; Colossians 1:10)

I will live with the consciousness that Christ is present in me. I will make myself accountable to others and avoid the kind of secrecy that can create occasions of temptation.

YHWH-rapha' (I, the LORD, and your Healer)

Exodus 15:26 *Just after the exodus and the miraculous deliverance at the Red Sea, the Israelites encountered the bitter waters at Marah. God provides the tree to sweeten the waters and promises that if they obey him, they will be free from the diseases put on the Egyptians.*

1. There are consequences to physical intimacy outside of marriage

Following God's way will allow me to live free from unnecessary guilt and those diseases associated with loose living.

YHWH-shalom (The LORD is Peace)

Judges 6:24 *When Israel is oppressed by Midian, the angel of the LORD calls Gideon to defeat them. Gideon is unsure of himself and asks for signs. The LORD assures Gideon and gives him peace.*

1. Don't fear being different

(Hebrews 11:6; John 16:33)

Though others may mock me because I do not follow the dating patterns of my culture, God will give me peace in the midst of that conflict.