

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LOVE AND LUST

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Many a time, we develop feelings for a boy or a girl, we always call it love. But, in most cases, it is lust. The two seem to be the same. That it seems to be the same does not make them the same. There is a thin line between love and lust, and as a result people cannot tell the difference between the two. The Bible teaches that lust is a sin, and love is of God. The question now is, “how do I know if my feeling is born out of real love or lust”? An understanding of the meaning of love and lust will reveal the difference and make it possible for one to check him or herself to know what feeling one has and get rid of the unwanted.

MEANING OF LOVE

1. God Is Love.

1 John 4:7-8

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

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2. Love is the fulfillment of the law.

Rom 13:8

8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.

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3. Love is sacrificial.

John 3:16-17

16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

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4. Agape (God's kind of love) means "Love in spite of":

- who you are,
- Your weakness,
- Your bad habits and character,
- Poverty or wealth,
- Sickness or health,
- Deformity,
- Social status and
- Academic attainments.

Attributes of love

- Love is patient
- Love is kind
- Love does not envy
- Love does not boast
- Love is not proud
- Love is not rude
- Love is not self-seeking
- Love is not easily angered
- Love keeps no record of wrongs
- Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth
- Love always protects
- Love always trusts
- Love always hopes
- Love always perseveres
- Love never fails

1 Cor 13:4-8

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

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MEANING OF LUST

1. Lust is inordinate (excessive, undue, unwarranted, immoderate, extravagant, unreasonable) desire for something or someone.
2. Lust is violent (aggressive) desire to possess something or somebody.
3. Lust is strong sexual desire with someone you are not married to.

2 Tim 2:22

22 Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

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Gal 5:16

16 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

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Prov 6:25

25 Do not lust in your heart after her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyes,

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Matt 5:28

28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

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SIGNS OF LUST

The signs of lust are:

1. Preoccupation on the physique of the opposite sex or the particular person you are attracted to.
2. Loosing emotional control every time in the presence of the person you are attracted to.
3. Strong desires to touch, hold, kiss, caress, fondle and romance the one occupying your mind.
4. Desire to have sex with the one you think you love especially each time you meet despite your knowledge of God's word on the issue.
5. Inability to overlook minor offenses committed against you by the one you claim to love dearly.

LUST AND YOUR THOUGHTS

Lust is a mind thing. Lust originates from a man's thoughts. His thoughts fuel and increase it until it becomes a raging inferno. It is lust that leads to sexual sins. That is why Jesus said that it is not until you commit the sex act that you sin. Since there can be no sex act until it is conceived in the mind, then, the sin starts in the mind. If you don't think it, you won't desire it, and when there is no desire, there will be no pursuit, and when there is no pursuit, there will be no act. This is the reason why the Lord Jesus Christ condemned the man who lusts after a woman he is not married to. God is not going to wait until you commit the real sex act before he declares you guilty of sexual sin. Because of lust, Jesus said, the man has committed adultery in his heart.

So many times, people claim they are not lusting, but admiring, what does admire mean?

MEANING OF ADMIRE

Admiration means to look at with pleasure or satisfaction. To admire is to have a high regard for. There is a very thin line between admiration and lust.

It is admiration that leads to lust. Admiration is always the starting point. The speed with which admiration grows into lust is so much that the individual does not know that he has started lusting. Apostle Paul's advice is to flee youthful lust.

The mature are them who have trained themselves to deal with such thoughts and not open their minds to it. Flee! Don't entertain such thoughts. Be mature. Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the desire or lust of the flesh. Submit to the Holy Spirit, and let him rule over you.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LOVE AND LUST

1. Lust is a state of the mind, while love is a state of the heart.
2. Love is Godly, while lust is of the flesh and the devil.

3. Love is rooted in the spirit (heart), while lust is an obsession in the mind.
4. Lust is only interested in what he wants, while love is interested in giving and sacrificing.
5. Love is patient in waiting for a change, but lust loses interest when desire is not met.
6. Love has depth, the feeling is strong and it has root in the heart. While lust is shallow, it occupies the mind, and is not rooted in the heart.
7. Love never fails, it lasts long. But lust does not

CONCLUSION

Your thoughts give birth to lust, and lust leads to sin, and sin brings death.

James 1:14-15

14 but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.

15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

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Thought control is the answer to lust, and keeping away for a time from the object of lust until you have overcome.

That feeling you have towards that boy or girl, check it very well, be sure it is not lust but love. If it is lust, deal with it and save yourself the agony and pain it will bring you.

King David of Israel suffered thirteen years of punishment after he allowed lust to lead him to adultery with Beersheba the wife of Uriah. If he had dealt with lust, he would have been saved all the troubles he went through.

Save your self from the aftermath of sin by fleeing from lust.