

## **False Loves**

Adapted from Em Griffin, *The Christian Persuader*  
From the Power Point Presentations: “Motivations to Love” and also  
“CM for Jordan” (session 1)

Seven varieties of people “lovers”

- Nonlovers
- Flirts
- Seducers
- Rapists
- Smother Lovers
- Legalistic Lovers
- **True Lovers**

### **Nonlovers**

- These “Christians” do not engage others; they remain aloof.
- Their attitude is: “I do my thing and you do your thing. I am not in this world to live up to your expectations and you are not in this world to live up to mine.”
- “Let people suffer in their context. I should not interfere. It is their business to straighten out their own problems.”
- The nonlover is, at best, calloused and uncaring.
- The antidote to this is Romans 10:14, 15: *“How then can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’”*

### **Flirts**

- These “Christians” do not love the needy person; they are in love with themselves.
- Their attitude is: “I will make as many conquests as I can and try to be as popular as I can through my services.”
- Often times they try to run up the statistics of people they have benefited to show popularity or leverage further attention. They are not interested much in long-term relationships with the people they help.
- The “flirt” is, at best, “immature.”
- The antidote to this is the example of Paul who backed up his words with ongoing, loving, and nurturing correspondence.

### **Seducers**

- These “Christians” respond to people for all the wrong reasons, such as power, success, money, popularity, influence.
- Their attitude is: “I’ll exhibit my influence, example, intelligence, sophistication, “star appeal” that attracts and panders to the baser desires of the needy.”
- It does not elevate and empower but rather manipulates for personal advantage.

- The “seducer” is, at best, “immoral.”
- The antidote to this is found in the words of Paul in 2 Corinthians 4:2: *“Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every person’s conscience in the sight of God.”*

### **Rapists**

- These “Christians” use acts of force to produce desired results while denying the needy free choice. The force used can be psychological as well as physical and often is built on excessive fear or guilt.
- Their attitude is: “We’ll do whatever is necessary to produce desired results or outcomes. The end justifies the means.”
- The “rapists” is, at best, “criminal.”
- The antidote of this is found in the words of Paul in 2 Corinthians 7:2-4: *“Make room for us in your hearts. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have exploited no one. I do not say this to condemn you; I have said before that you have such a place in our hearts that we would live or die with you. I have great confidence in you; I take great pride in you. I am greatly encouraged; in all our troubles my joy knows no bounds.”*

### **Smother Lovers**

- These “Christians” love their recipients to death. They genuinely care, but offer only a relationship built exclusively on one-way communication.
- They fail to see or receive the “exchange of gifts.” The “smother lover” does not allow for mutual growth or critique, or even room to breathe on the part of the person who is the object of love.
- Their attitude is: “I must meet every need to exhibit the love of God.”
- The “smother lover” is, at best, “blinded” by their own projections of need.
- The antidote of this is found in the passage given in James 3:1-2: *“not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brother, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways.”*

### **Legalistic Lovers**

- These “Christians” go through the motions of love without any conviction or commitment.
- They offer, in the words of 1 Corinthians 13:1, a gesture of love that is nothing more than “sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal.” They are concerned about the duty of service and tend to focus on spiritual results but fail to look at the total needs of the individual—food, peace, dignity, or accomplishment.
- Their attitude is: “I’ve discerned the problem and met the need. That should be sufficient!”
- The “Legalistic lover” is, at best, duty bound, without the motivation of the spirit of Christ.
- The antidote to this is found in James 2:15, 16: *“Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, ‘Go, I wish you well;*

*keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?"*

### **True Lovers**

- These Christians care more about the welfare of the other persons than about their own ego needs. He or she respects the rights of the other person and gives people space and occasion to say, "no!" when it is offered.
- He or she does not humiliate the person, nor resent him or her when he or she defers.
- We are all called to be "True Lovers" of all people.