



# When Love Facilitates Sin

1Cor. 13:4-7

# When Love Facilitates Sin

- It is common to hear folks use love as an excuse for doing harm and committing sin:
  - Parents with their children,
  - Spouses with their mates,
  - Young people with their dates,
  - Christians with family and friends.
- Love is one of the most powerful and noble of emotions and motivations; but it will never be powerful and noble enough to justify sin.

# Love As An Excuse To Do Wrong

- A young man says to his girlfriend: “If you really loved me...”
- Our culture foolishly equates sex with love.
- Love can move two people to marry, and in the bond of marriage intimacy takes place; but, sex and love are not the same thing.
- 1Cor. 13:6 - Love does not rejoice in unrighteousness.

# Love As An Excuse To Do Wrong

- Sex outside of marriage is wrong and always will be sin.
  - 1Cor. 6:15-20 - “Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For the two, He says, shall become one flesh. 17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. 18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

## Love As An Excuse To Permit Others To Do Wrong

- The current Presidential administration and the news media speaking in defense of recognizing homosexual unions: “They really love each other, so how can you stand in their way?”
- It is used to justify unscriptural marriages: “They love each other. You can’t ask them to live apart.”

## Love As An Excuse To Permit Others To Do Wrong

- It is really saying, “We want to do this, so stop calling it sin.”
  - Psalm 10:3-4 - “For the wicked boasts of his heart’s desire; He blesses the greedy and renounces the LORD. 4 The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts.”
  - Prov. 28:4 - “Those who forsake the law praise the wicked, But such as keep the law contend with them.”

## Love As An Excuse To Permit Others To Do Wrong

- 1Cor. 13:5 - “Love does not act unbecomingly, is not self-seeking.” (NASB)
- Phil. 3:17-19 - “Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. 18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame--who set their mind on earthly things.”
- Rom. 1:32 - “Who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.”

## Love As An Excuse To Permit Others To Do Wrong

- As Israel deteriorated, they reveled in their sins.
  - Hosea 4:6-11 - “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children. 7 The more they increased, The more they sinned against Me; I will change their glory into shame. 8 They eat up the sin of My people; They set their heart on their iniquity. 9 And it shall be: like people, like priest. So I will punish them for their ways, And reward them for their deeds. 10 For they shall eat, but not have enough; They shall commit harlotry, but not increase; Because they have ceased obeying the LORD. 11 Harlotry and wine enslave the heart.”



## Love As An Excuse To Permit Others To Do Wrong

- People would rather redefine righteousness than rebuke sin and denounce the suffering it causes.
  - Isa. 5:20-21 - “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! 21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight!”

## Love As An Excuse To Permit Others To Do Wrong

- Occasionally, members of the church say to the elders: “If we really loved him...” as a means of preventing local church discipline from being practiced.
- 1Cor. 5:5 - “Deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.”
- God said, “If we really love him, we will discipline him.” I’ll take God’s objective definition of love over others’ subjective opinions on love
- Our culture equates love with the voiding of consequences.

## Love As An Excuse To Dismiss Accountability

- Many often say: “A loving God would not send people to hell.”
- Pop culture believes that a civilized and loving people would not practice capital punishment.
- This misguided form of love wants to forgive people who refuse to repent.
- Enabling love is unhealthy love. Is it love when we support behavior that will end in harm, pain, and sorrow?

# Love As An Excuse To Dismiss Accountability

- We cannot emphasize love and ignore truth, justice, and salvation.
  - Rom. 11:22 - “Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.”

## Love As An Excuse To Dismiss Accountability

- Ez. 18:24-29 - “But when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and does according to all the abominations that the wicked man does, shall he live? All the righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; because of the unfaithfulness of which he is guilty and the sin which he has committed, because of them he shall die. 25 Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair.’ Hear now, O house of Israel, is it not My way which is fair, and your ways which are not fair? 26 When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity, and dies in it, it is because of the iniquity which he has done that he dies. 27 Again, when a wicked man turns away from the wickedness which he committed, and does what is lawful and right, he preserves himself alive. 28 Because he considers and turns away from all the transgressions which he committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. 29 Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair.’ O house of Israel, is it not My ways which are fair, and your ways which are not fair?”

## Love As An Excuse To Dismiss Accountability

- Where is the reward, honor, or fairness in saying faithful children of God go to heaven and so do those who choose sin and shame?
- If it doesn't matter, why bother being a good person?
- Why would God command righteous living if He doesn't care?

# True Love Serves God And Others

- When people leave righteousness, they leave true love behind.
  - Rev. 2:4-5 - “Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent.”
  - It is not possible to have true righteousness without love.
  - It is equally impossible to have healthy love without righteousness.

# True Love Serves God And Others

- Loving God is manifested by following His will.
  - John 14:15 - “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”
  - 1John 5:1-3 - “Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”



# True Love Serves God And Others

- True love is about giving in return what is needed and right.
  - 1John 4:9-11 - “In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

# True Love Serves God And Others

- 1John 3:16 - “By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”
- John 15:12-13 - “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.  
13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.”

# True Love Serves God And Others

- God loves us in spite of our sins; however, God's love does not permit us to remain in our sins, because He knows what sin does and will do to us.
- All of His works in this matter are concerned with removing our sins from us for our own good.
- Is it really love when we choose to sin and remain in it, demanding that others accept our sins and the harm they create?
- Is it really love for others when we accept their sins and allow them to hurt themselves and others and ultimately be lost?

# When Love Facilitates Sin

- Rom. 13:10 - “Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.”