

Fire and Love

Recently at the royal wedding we were reminded of fire and love.

Fire when harnessed is a power that propels civilization. It heats our homes as it transforms unlivable climates. Fire also preserves and cooks our food promoting health and the delight of taste. Fire contained, runs our gas combustible engines on jet planes and cars. Fire propels rockets which put satellites into space giving us GPS as well as the base of energy for the wireless internet and modern electricity. Fire transforms life.

But fire when not contained or harnessed can destroy us. Consider the fiery volcanic explosion spewing out hot lava in a place like Hawaii. Fire out of control can burn a house down as well as bodies and even destroy our beautiful green forests.

Fire must be controlled, and so must love.

Love brings a man and woman together and creates families. Love can heal relationships and inspire dreams. Love can help the hurting and soothe the soul. Love transforms.

Love, however, when out of control can damage and devastate. Loving a different woman in a marriage relationship can destroy that marriage and bring wounds and a broken heart.

God's love is controlled by the trinity of Truth, Holiness and Justice

God's true love does not lie, thus saving people from Satan's ways and fire.

"Speaking the truth in love," Eph. 4:15. **"Charity (love)... rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth"** 1Cor. 13:4,6. **"I love in the truth,"** 3John:1. There is an enemy who is a liar and deceiver – Satan. Only the Lord's truth in Christ Jesus sets you free from him. And God's Word defines what is untrue, from wrong relationships to false religions.

God's holy love does not love evil (sin)

"Ye that love the LORD, hate evil," Psa. 97:10. **"I hate and abhor lying: but thy law do I love,"** Psa. 119:163. Love hates. For evil distorts God, destroys purity, breaks hearts and brings depression and pain. Evil kills life and is punished in everlasting torments. Wise is the person and church that doesn't cover evil with a cloak of unholy and fake love.

God's just love does not ignore the consequences and punishment of sin

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son," John 3:16. The very gospel of God only saves by punishing His Son for our sins on the cross. His justice was satisfied in the Lord Jesus and so is the only way a repentant believer is forgiven and can know God's saving love. Otherwise they remain in their sins under His wrath. Also in His church, love comes after a just discipline. **"Put away from among yourselves that wicked person...sufficient to such a man is this punishment...contrariwise...confirm your love toward him,"** 1Cor. 5:13, 2Cor. 2:6-8. We are to, **"Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment [justice] in the gate,"** Amos 5:15. Justice gives a penalty to the wrong doer. This upholds honor and righteousness. So God's love is fair and the greatest.