

What We Need Is Less Love

Introduction. Many preachers will say, "What we (society, church, family) need is more love." This certainly is true. In fact, most of the time, someone's love should abound (2 Corinthians 8:7; Philippians 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 3:12). But I want to make the case to you that in some instances what we need is less love.

I. ***We Need Less Love For Self***

- A. We are not to think more highly than we ought to think (Micah 6:8; Romans 12:3-8). Every Christian should esteem others better than self (2 Kings 7:9; Philippians 2:3-4).
- B. The Bible is full of warnings against pride (Psalm 12:3; 101:5; Proverbs 8:13; James 4:6; cf. 2 Chronicles 32:24-26).

II. ***We Need Less Love For Money***

- A. The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil (1 Timothy 6:9-12).
- B. The rich fool jeopardized himself because he put his riches first (Luke 12:13-21).
- C. Achan loved the spoil of Jericho (Joshua 7:20-21), and Balaam loved the wages of unrighteousness (2 Peter 2:15).

III. ***We Need Less Love For Pleasure***

- A. Every society has been a pleasure-mad society (Hebrews 11:25; cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12; Revelation 22:15).
- B. In and of itself, pleasure is not wrong (Ecclesiastes 5:18-20), but too much love of the world drove Demas away from the faith (2 Timothy 4:10).
- C. John described three avenues of sin (1 John 2:15-17).
 - 1. Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:1-7).
 - 2. Temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11).
- D. The lust of flesh produces some of the worst sins known to man (Romans 1:29-31; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Timothy 1:8-10).

IV. ***We Need Less Love For Preeminence***

- A. Diotrophes loved the preeminence, refused to accept John and others, and stood condemned (3 John 9-11).
- B. The chief rulers of the synagogue craved human praise (Luke 11:43; John 12:43). A lot of people feel that they must be in the limelight, like Simon (Acts 8:9).
- C. The love for preeminence causes envy and jealousy (Matthew 20:21-24). The solution is becoming like a child (Matthew 18:1-5).

Conclusion. It is interesting to note that many of these were characteristic of the perilous "last days" (2 Timothy 3:1-4). We definitely do need more love in some ways, but let's not forget to purge the "bad" love from our hearts too.