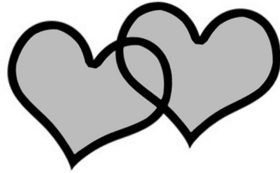


True Biblical Love is Not Based on Feelings

2 Samuel 13:6-17



The world considers love to be a feeling—a strong emotion which overcomes a person, and he/she “falls in love.” Of course, feelings are very changeable and a person can very quickly “fall out of love.”

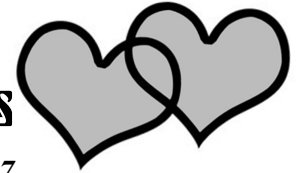
Consider *the Hollywood philosophy of love*: “Hollywood, ever since its beginning has taught a pagan philosophy of love. The philosophy is that love happens. It’s the kind of thing that just is or isn’t. It isn’t something that you develop, it isn’t something that grows, it isn’t something that you work hard to achieve, it isn’t a thinking thing, and it certainly isn’t something that you can will (or decide about). It is something that happens. And when it happens, it happens in such a way that you know that it has happened! It bowls you over; you hear music, see wonderful lights, or have a near psychedelic experience. Such love at first seems wonderful, but what happens when the happening is over? What happens when the sounds grow empty and the colors turn to gray? What happens when the feeling dies and the embers grow cold? What happens to a Hollywood-type marriage based on feeling when the parties begin to experience the fluctuating character of feeling? What happens when one or the other begins to have growing feelings for someone else?” (J. Adams).

A love based on feelings is subject to change, as illustrated by Amnon’s “love” for Tamar. God tells us to “love our enemies” (Matt. 5:44), whereas our feelings might tell us to punch our enemy in the nose. Our feelings tell us to please ourselves; God says to please others (Rom. 15:1-2). Consider God’s love towards us while we were yet sinners and His enemies (Rom. 5:6,8,10). We were as unlovable as could be, and ***yet our blessed Saviour God decided to love us and rescue us!***

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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