

## Love or Lust: Understanding the Differences

"Love" will be much professed today. Perhaps we should better understand that of which we speak, and what we're pledging and affirming ("love" characteristics from 1Cor.13:4-8)...

**Love** is the most basic and needed human emotion; **Lust** is a poor and pitiful substitute.

**Love** establishes value; **Lust** requires value; (Love says, "This person is 'valuable' to me because I 'love' them" while Lust says, "I 'want' this person because they are valuable to me."

**Love** is selfless; **Lust** is selfish.

**Love** is of heaven- spiritual, divine, and fulfilling; **Lust** is from below, fleshly, earthly, and insatiable.

**Love** is an affection or affinity toward; **Lust** is a desire for.

**Love** is patient; **Lust** is impatient.

**Love** is kind and sensitive; **Lust** is rude and crude.

**Love** is never jealous; **Lust** is ever jealous.

**Love** is not arrogant and does not brag; **Lust** is and does.

**Love** is becoming and pure; **Lust** is ugly and putrid.

**Love** forgives and forgets; **Lust** neither forgives nor forgets (it always keeps and knows the "score").

**Love** loves the lovely; **Lust** lusts the lusty.

**Love** bears, believes, hopes, and therefore endures all things; **Lust** bears nothing, believes nothing, hopes nothing (beyond instant gratification), and therefore endures nothing (or very little).

**Love** NEVER fails (to fulfill, to overcome, or to endure); **Lust** ALWAYS fails (to fulfill, to overcome, or to endure).

We've mistaken and misidentified "**love**" and "**lust**" for far too long. Since, "God is *love*" (1John 4:8) we cannot know God without knowing true Love. And unless we *love another*," instead of selfishly desiring and using one another, we cannot love God or love as He loves (cf. 1John 4:20 and Matt.5:44-48).

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