

## Reassurance of Christ's Love When Doubts Assail You #3

Song of Solomon 8:6-7; Ephesians 4:15

August 23, 2020

Greg L. Price

Emotions and feelings are not wrong or sinful in themselves. God created us with good and holy desires which give us a godly delight in obeying Him and a holy hatred of disobeying Him. God did not make us to be like emotionless rocks. What about the godly emotions expressed throughout the Psalms? Moreover, we are to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength (which includes with our emotions). Dear ones, Jesus is touched with the feeling of your infirmities (Hebrews 4:15).

However, it is sinful for us to be led by our ever-changing emotions rather than by the never-changing truth of God's Word. When we follow our emotions wherever they lead us, we will be controlled by constantly shifting people and circumstances all around us. Godly emotions rejoice in the truth of Jesus Christ, and it is His truth that is to guide our emotions. Our lusts, fears, and worldly appetites will master us if God's immovable truth does not teach us that it is in Him that we are to rest, love, and rejoice. Those led by their feelings are like a speeding car on a highway that has no steering wheel to keep it safely on the road in reaching their home.

This is so vital in the Christian life; for we are tempted to confuse what we feel with that which is necessarily true. Nothing is more likely to mislead us and deceive us than to be led by our feelings. Many sincere Christians conclude that Jesus does not love them at times because they do not feel His love at a given moment. Are your changeable feelings what you are to trust, or is it the unchangeable nature and biblical description of Christ's love found here in Song of Solomon 8:6-7 in which you are to trust? Christians may not only fall into the trap of seeing is believing, but also may fall into the trap of feeling is believing. Neither is true. God teaches in His Word that resting is believing—resting in the unchangeable truth of Christ's Word over your changeable feelings (Psalm 37:7). Your feelings may lie and the enemy may use them to discourage you and to take your eye of faith off of Jesus. That is why the elect bride earnestly pleads with Jesus to reassure her of the strength of His love, the jealousy of His love, the fervency of His love, the invincibility of His love, and the infinite value of His love for her. She does not want to be led by her changeable feelings, but by His unchangeable truth.

The last two descriptions of Christ's love are: (1) The Invincibility of Christ's Love (Song 8:7); (2) The Infinite Value of Christ's Love (Song 8:7).

### I. The Invincibility of Christ's Love (Song 8:7).

A. This is the third sermon covering the beautiful and truthful description of Christ's love for you, His chosen bride. Jesus knows us all so well, including our sinful weakness to trust in our feelings over His Word. Here is a portion of Scripture to which you should turn whenever you are tempted to doubt whether Jesus loves you with the infinite ocean of His unchanging love. Dear ones, purify your mind with these verses. Strengthen your faith and perseverance with them. Cling to them always.

B. The bride having described the fervency of Christ's constant love as "coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame" in verse 6, the bride now in verse 7 describes Christ's love as being so infinitely hot for her that it cannot be quenched by "many waters" or drowned by "floods". Nothing in heaven, on earth, or in hell can extinguish the burning love of Christ for His beloved and elect bride! Christ's love for His elect who trust in Him is absolutely invincible. It conquers all.

1. Here is a picture, not of a **candle of love** that can be snuffed out by the breath of man or put out with a little moisture on your fingertips. The picture of love here is not like what is uttered by some

married couples, “I love you”, but then only loves when love is returned or only loves when relationships are going well. No, this is a picture of a **mighty sun of love** that burns and burns so hot that it cannot be extinguished no matter what is cast upon it (many oceans) or regardless of how it is mistreated (by mighty rivers that overflow it). Imagine for a moment this unquenchable sun of love and all the oceans of waters of the earth being poured upon it and all the mighty Niagara Falls of the earth coming against it, and it yet it burns with an infinite and unchangeable heat for the elect of Jesus Christ. The love of Jesus Christ is invincible and unquenchable for you, God’s people. Nothing can conquer it, but it conquers all upon whom it falls. That is the meaning of the picture that is presented to us. Jesus went through waters so deep and rivers so great in His suffering for you, His elect, and they could not dampen His love (let alone quench His love) for you. The longer I trust in Jesus, study and preach His Word, the more I am convinced that the foundation to a growing Christian life is to understand, receive, and practice the love of Jesus Christ. Our struggles often return to our not understanding, receiving, and practicing the sacrificial, pure love of Jesus.

2. What do the many waters or mighty rivers represent that might try to extinguish Christ’s love for you, your love for Him, and the love of Jesus in you for others? They represent the trials, afflictions, heartaches, sins, and enemies that seek to quench the love of Jesus for you or the love of Jesus in you (Psalm 42:5-7; Psalm 124:2-4). Whatever you are facing right now, dear Christian, His love for you is invincible. Your love for Jesus may be tempted and tried by illnesses, losses, delays, heartaches, and various enemies (within and without), but Jesus will preserve His love in you. That is why you cannot as a Christian live in bitterness, resentment, or hatred toward others. It denies the unquenchable nature of Christ’s love within you (1 John 4:7-8). If you claim to have Christ’s love, you must practice it.

3. Even the great enemy of sin that yet remains within us (as Christians) cannot extinguish Christ’s love for you. Your struggles with sin may disappoint you, may discourage you, and may frustrate you so that you cry out with Paul in the words of Romans 7:24. Paul answers his own question in Romans 7:25: “I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” His love conquers all—even sin through His death and resurrection. The love of Jesus will never die out of itself, and it is impossible for you to put it out. How many times have we thought to ourselves after falling again into that besetting sin: Does Jesus still love me the same as He did before I fell? Has not my sin cooled His love for me or even drowned it altogether? Dear ones, hear the unchangeable Word of God to you who trust in Him for your eternal salvation: “Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it.” Our sin may bring God’s loving discipline upon us, but nothing can separate us from the love of Jesus Christ.

4. Does your sin catch the love of Jesus by surprise or did He love you and redeem you knowing the worst about you? Does knowing this truth and believing it drive you away from Him to live in sin? No, it drives you to Jesus to mourn over your sin, to seek His forgiveness, and to renew your love and obedience to Him. It gives you perseverance not to give up and remain on the ground, but to arise again because of that invincible love of Jesus. His love soothes and comforts your weary and exhausted soul that becomes so tired in warring against those same sins. Will you trust your feelings or Christ’s love and truth? Will you run away from Jesus or run to Jesus and rest in His love? Dear ones, there is no peace of mind where the invincible love of Jesus is not received through faith and practiced in your life. He has expressed His love in words and demonstrated His love for you, His elect, in His death and resurrection for you. The love of Jesus is invincible (Romans 8:35-39). No creature, no persecution and seas of blood, or no trial can quench His love.

## **II. The Infinite Value of Christ’s Love (Song 8:7).**

A. The Love of Jesus is now pictured as the most valuable and costly item imaginable.

1. If you owned the treasures of the entire world and would give it all in exchange for Christ’s love, all of that wealth would utterly be contemned or despised as being worthless compared to the infinite value of Christ’s love (its strength, jealousy, fervency, and invincibility).

2. The love of Jesus Christ cannot be purchased with money, or by any of your works of obedience or mine. It can only be freely given by Jesus and received by faith alone as a free gift. Once you have received it, you will never part with it for anything—you will not exchange anyone or anything in your life for the love of Jesus Christ (even your own life). Those who are willing to exchange the love of this world or the love of their own life for the love of Jesus Christ only evidence that they have never truly understood or freely received the love of Christ (Philippians 3:8).

3. Dear ones, you evidence the infinite value of Christ's love in your life by your sacrificial love for God and His truth above everything else and by your sacrificial love for one another.

a. Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). Where there is little or no desire to walk in faithfulness to Christ's commandments reveals that you do not consider the love of Jesus to be important or valuable to you. Biblical love does not act contrary to the truth of Jesus Christ. Biblical love and biblical truth are not enemies, but are always united together in what they promote. One cannot be compromised at the expense of the other—truth cannot be compromised in order to be loving, nor can love be compromised to be truthful. We must speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). You may be challenged to demonstrate your love for your brethren by laying aside what is faithful and true in order to have a so-called unity. Dear ones, a biblical unity only comes when all parties are speaking the truth in love (1 Corinthians 1:10). Who are promoting schisms and divisions? Those who unite together in love around biblical truth (as summarized in faithful Confessions of Faith, Catechisms, Covenants, and Terms of Communion)? No! Those who unite together in love around a diversity of doctrine and worship? Yes! Any other view is a conspiracy to unseat a biblical unity. It becomes a unity in error and a oneness in diversity of doctrine and worship which makes a mockery of biblical love and unity (1 Corinthians 13:6).

b. You also evidence the infinite value of Christ's love in your life by your love for your neighbor—beginning in the home and in the church (John 13:35). It is a mere pretense to say you love one another in the home or in the church while harboring resentment, bitterness, and anger toward those you profess to love. To be unwilling to remove the enmity between you so as to be reconciled in truth and love is a mere disguise—it is mask that hides that poison within. Husbands, your duty in the home is humanly speaking a greater priority than that of your wife's submission (Ephesians 5:25). It is Christ's love that wins our heart and brings about a willing and cheerful submission to Him. Your wife is to submit unto you in all things lawful, but your focus should be upon demonstrating the sacrificial love of Jesus to her in winning her heart, so that she knows and is persuaded by your love that what you do for her is because you love her with the sacrificial love of Jesus.

B. Thus, the elect bride pleads with the Lord Jesus to reassure her with the strength of His love, the jealousy of His love, the fervency of His love, the invincibility of His love, and the infinite value of His love. That's the cry of every true Christian.

C. Are you within the sound of my voice, and does your hear cry out, "How I need to know and receive this amazing love of Jesus Christ." You cannot earn it or make yourself worthy to receive it. If Jesus gave you and me what we deserve, it would be His justice and condemnation. But He gives us what we do not deserve, His loving salvation from the guilt and condemnation of sin, and freely grants eternal life to all who receive Him by faith alone. Though there be many waters of sin and corruption in you, the love of Jesus for all who receive Him can never be quenched. Come in faith to Jesus right where you are today—young or old. Your love and mine will disappoint, but His love will never disappoint.

Copyright 2020 Greg L. Price.