

## THE CHURCH FLIRTING WITH THE WORLD

**TEXT: Judges 16:4b: He [Samson] loved a woman.**

To those who are in love, there is something very beautiful. There is a closeness which is visible to everyone around them. Love usually brings the best out of us. It hides a multitude of faults and lack of virtues by taking their place. Love is of God, for God is love. He that loveth is born of God.



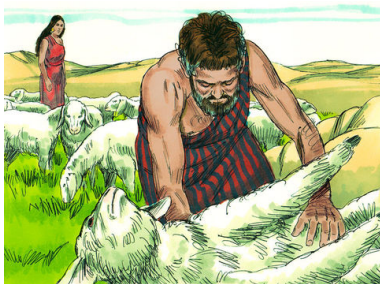
**1 John 4:7: Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.**

Love makes life blossom, and puts a new sparkle in your eye and a new look on your countenance. It takes away the emptiness of life, gives new desires and interests, and sets in motion activities hitherto scoffed at.

Your love life will make you or break you. When you are in love with the Lord Jesus, you will do anything to make Him known to others. No degree of extreme is unknown to love. Love knows no sacrifice too great, and there are no hardships worth reflecting upon when you love Him.

**John 14:21: [Jesus said] He Who hath My Commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him.**

Jacob loved Rachel, and the seven years were as a day as he labored to get her, because he loved her so much.



**Genesis 29:18, 20:**

**18 And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee [Laban] seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter.**

**20 And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her.**

**While Jacob worked 7 years for Rachel, Christ loved us so much that He laid down His very life for our redemption. Christ and Christ alone should be our first love, and when**

He is not, the Word says that He has 'somewhat' against us:

**Revelation 2:4-5:**

***<sup>4</sup> Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.***

***<sup>5</sup> Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.***

Your love life is a gateway to Heaven or Hell.

Your love life is a gateway to Heaven or Hell. In the last days, the love life of most people will be corrupted, as we are told in:

**2 Timothy 3:2-4:**

***<sup>2</sup> For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,***

***<sup>3</sup> Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,***

***<sup>4</sup> Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;***

***Matthew 24:12: And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.***

The object of your love will make you or break you.

The world has gotten so churchy and the church so worldly that they cannot be told apart.

The object of your love will make you or break you.

***Matthew 13:22: He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the Word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the Word, and he becometh unfruitful.***

***John 12:6: This he [Judas Iscariot] said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.***

**John 14:16-17:**

***<sup>16</sup> And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever;***

***17 Even the Spirit of Truth; Whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.***

***John 15:18-19:***

***18 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated Me before it hated you.***

***19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.***

***1 John 3:13: Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.***

***1 Corinthians 4:3: But if our Gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:***



***Romans 12:2: And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, Will of God.***

***Galatians 6:14: But God forbid that I should glory, save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by Whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.***

***1 Corinthians 1:20: Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?***

***1 Corinthians 3:19: For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.***

***Colossians 2:20: Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to Ordinances,***

***James 1:27: Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.***

***James 4:4: Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be***

***a friend of the world is the enemy of God.***

***1 Timothy 4:10: For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmati.***

***2 Corinthians 6:13-17:***

***13 Now for a recompence in the same, (I speak as unto my children,) be ye also enlarged.***

***14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?***

***15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?***

***16 And what agreement hath the Temple of God with idols? for ye are the Temple of the Living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.***

***17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.***



***“Be not unequally yoked . . . come out from among them”.***  
BOTH deal with the same matter, but with two different groups. One is a warning against **going into** elicit love, and the other is to **come out** of spiritual adultery.

The first is more than marriage to unbelievers. The **world** is your enemy. It will ruin your walk with God as we see in the case of Demas.

***2 Timothy 4:10: For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.***

God loves you and knows what will separate you from Him and Heaven. If you take no warning, scoff at me as a servant of God, and refuse to come back to the church, you are unfair. I have tried to be faithful to your precious soul, and to give you only the Word of God — not my own words and ideas.

If your mother warns you against playing with fire, matches, snakes, poison ivy, and falling off the porch, and you do not take heed, you will get into a lot of trouble

and will find yourself howling. You disobeyed her warnings, and now you must suffer for it. If you obey the laws of health, you will not be sickly. If you obey the laws of electricity, you will not be shocked or killed. If you obey the law of gravity, you can avoid broken bones or even the loss of life.

Having only one true love will make you Heaven-bound, to a never ending honeymoon. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the first love in all marriages remained alive! There would be no divorces, no broken homes, and no ostracizing of children to an unnatural life in the home.

Samson loved a woman. A good woman brings the breath of spring to a man's soul, but the wrong woman brings killing frost. Samson's love became a broad way to hell that Samson found out too late in loving Delilah. Who, or what, is your Delilah?



**Who was this Delilah?** She was — first of all — a sinner and an unsaved child of the devil. These are barriers to true happiness which can cause willful disobedience to the Word of God if we allow ourselves to become involved with such individuals. Samson knew better than to get involved with her, and so do you. This is an old story to many of you, but disobedience is costly. Samson acted like a fool in playing with fire. He played around with a woman who was filled with the devil and physical charm. She knew how to make love, but morally she was tarnished and soiled, and of an ungodly heart.

**Disobedience  
is costly**

Samson thought only about having his fling — a good time — then leave. But worldly pleasures will never leave you the same, even if you go back to church and are near the people of God. If you are playing with your own soul as a toy, take heed! Once you fall in love with the world, you cannot break or resist its hold, and you will go full speed ahead to your own destruction.



Delilah was all the world is, at its best and at its worst. First, the best and then the worst. First, there is the sweet forbidden morsel of love. It is pleasant for so short a time, but then comes the bitter end which is infinitely longer than the beginning. For Samson, it was being captured by the Philistines who gouged his eyes out and sentenced him to a life of grinding at the mill like an animal. But for others, it could be the eternal separation from God and Heaven, and an endless eternity in Hell with satan and his demons.



Delilah was a woman of luxury and ease, and she knew how to use her charms to fulfill her selfish desires on those she lured into her net. She turned them full force on Samson. She selfishly pretended to love Samson in order to receive a large sum of money that the Philistines had promised to give her if she could get Samson to reveal the source of his strength.



You play with the world, its pleasures, and all that is in it, and you will pay a dear price. The devil told Jesus the price He had to pay for his offer of this world:

***Matthew 4:8-9: [satan tempts Jesus]***

***8 Again, the devil taketh Him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;***

***9 And saith unto Him, All these things will I give Thee, if Thou wilt fall down and worship me.***

This is who is behind all the enticing pleasures of the world — satan!

The devil's object is to get your mind, heart, and love away from Jesus, and turn your soul away from Him, after which it will wither and decay.

The world will stop at nothing to get you away from Christ. Delilah belonged to the devil and he used her well. She belonged to the ancient order of gold diggers. Pretense was her game. Samson was serious in his love for her, but she was not. She pretended to love him. All movies and acting on the screen is pretending, taking things not real and making them seem like real.

Here was a woman at her worst. Look how she appealed to him:

***Judges 16:15-17:***

***15 And she said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart is not with me? thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth.***

***16 And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death;***

***17 That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I have been a Nazarite unto***



***God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man.***

God pity the woman who uses her charms to seduce and lead others to their destruction.

**Who is this Samson?** He was an army when God was on Him! He was a five-star general, major, lieutenant, and buck private, all in one. He loved the Lord, and was once a man filled with the Spirit, separated unto the Lord.

He was a worker of miracles and a Judge in Israel for 20 years, but he became a has-been, and we have many of them today.

Born in a home sweetened by faith in the Lord, his coming into this world was an answer in earnest prayer. He had given himself to God, and God had given Himself to Samson. When he broke his vows and dedication to God, God was no longer with him. You are no exception.

God gives us this real life picture as a warning to all who would trifle with the pleasures of the world. What was the outcome? Samson thought he could have a better time in the company of the enemies of the Gospel than in the company of the people of God. It is always a sad day when saints have to play with sinners in order to have a good time. He did not intend to go that far – but there is no stopping place when you become blinded to your dangers.

**There is no stopping place when you become blinded to your dangers.**

The heart soon becomes hardened, and the convicting power of the Spirit is no longer felt. Jesus said: *“Marvel not if the world hate you.”*

***1 John 3:13: Marvel not, My brethren, if the world hate you.***

This man had a price on his head. He was the bitterest foe of his enemies. The devil knew where he was the weakest. The devil knows that about you, too, but he does not know your strength.

Delilah popped the question: *“How can you be found in such a way as to be afflicted?”* Any wise man that was not seduced and enticed would have become suspicious at such a question. But Samson had gone too far now. He who had been as sharp as a whip in judging Israel — there was nothing passed his recognition — was losing out with God. He was losing more heavily than he

realized, at his own expense. Instead of turning and fleeing, he played and toyed around with the question. Lies followed, he stole the glory from God, and he brought reproach upon the cause of the Gospel and upon people of God.

So do all backsliders. While sinners are outspoken about their sins, the backslider — undercover — commits the same sins and acts like a hypocrite. If he is caught, he justifies himself with excuses and lies, twisting the scriptures to fit his own comfort. I know of some who lie by habit and would steal the cream out of your coffee if you didn't keep stirring it.

When Delilah repeatedly asked Samson to reveal the source of his strength, he lied to her time after time. However, she would not give up enticing him. Samson did not go to pieces all at once. No one does. He who had no fear of man — having been a champion of many battles — was always unmoved by her cry “*the Philistines be upon thee, Samson*”. So what! He had always been able to break off the ropes or cords with which the Philistines had bound him.



He was sure of winning. He had never lived without the Presence of God, and he did not think he could lose out with God. His thinking was much like those today who believe in the doctrine of eternal security — that once you are saved you are always saved, so it doesn't matter if you continue to live a life of sin.

Samson's eternal security doctrine did not work. He departed from God, and God's Spirit had departed from him. Sadly, Samson did not know it until the Philistines were upon him and he tried to shake himself as before. This time, it did not work, and he was captured imprisoned, and had his eyes gauged out .

**Judges 16:20-21:**



***20 And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.***

***21 But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.***



God cannot tell it more accurately, nor can He picture it more plainly: Blindness always follows disobedience.

**Blindness always follows disobedience.**

The Philistines bound him with fetters of brass — he who was born and called to the great task of delivering Israel. He had a good beginning, but now he had become a captive by his own lust and disloyalty. He lost his power, the Presence of God, his sight, his freedom, and even the woman for whom he threw it all away.

Remember, sin can blind others beside Samson. It could be you or me if we choose to leave the straight and narrow way.

Thank God the story does not end there. Praise God. No one knows the long suffering of God. Little by little, the tarnished hero inches his way back to God, back to the old-time religion. As he returns to God, God returns to him.

The devil's crowd knows no mercy. They had just gouged out his eyes, and there was no pity nor forgiveness as they sought revenge for his having killing many of their fellow Philistines. The crowds also judged Jesus Christ, but — unlike Samson — He had done them no wrong. There is only One Who is plenteous in mercy, and that is the Lord .

***Psalms 86:5,15:***

***5 For Thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon Thee.***

***15 But Thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.***

***Psalms 103:8: The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.***

Samson had been betrayed. The world did not understand his strength, because they did not know or understand the True Source of his strength. God is the Source of our power:

***Ephesians 6:10: Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.***

They had discovered Samson's weakness. Now that the power of God had departed from him, they thought he would always remain in that condition, especially since he was totally blind. However, we read how God's love returned to Samson's

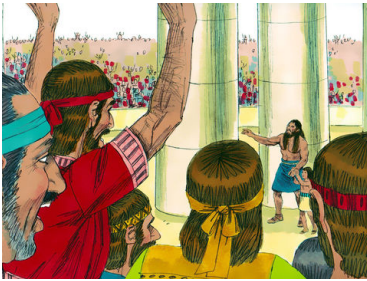
heart, his loyalty returned to God, and God's power returned to Samson, enabling him to fulfill his commission to execute God's judgment against the Philistines.

**Judges 16:22-30:**

**22** *Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven.*

**23** *Then the lords of the Philistines gathered them together for to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god, and to rejoice: for they said, Our god hath delivered Samson our enemy into our hand.*

**24** *And when the people saw him, they praised their god: for they said, Our god hath delivered into our hands our enemy, and the destroyer of our country, which slew many of us.*



**25** *And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, Call for Samson, that he may make us sport. And they called for Samson out of the prison house; and he made them sport: and they set him between the pillars.*

**26** *And Samson said unto the lad that held him by the hand, Suffer me that I may feel the pillars whereupon the house standeth, that I may lean upon them.*

**27** *Now the house was full of men and women; and all the lords of the Philistines were there; and there were upon the roof about three thousand men and women, that beheld while Samson made sport.*

**28** *And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.*

**29** *And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left.*

**30** *And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life.*



Your love life will make you or break you. It will lead you to Heaven or to Hell. Where has yours been leading you?

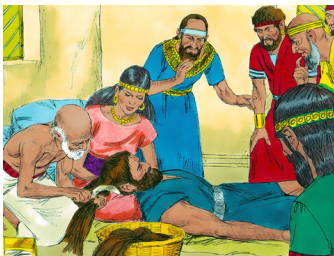
We cannot save souls in the church with the devil's tools. We cannot crowd a church with worldly entertainments, and then try to have a good prayer meeting. The evangelist Gypsy Smith<sup>1</sup> said: *"If I had my way, I'd convert church members with red hot preaching against worldliness, or burn churches down!"* We will not allow God's house to become desecrated with all kinds of sinful and worldly pleasures. Try to get people like this to a prayer meeting, and they get asthma, a cold, a nervous chill, or have "can't go out" nights. But the same ones — invited to a social or eating feast — are there ahead of time.



Rodney "Gypsy" Smith  
from Wikipedia

Samson was a man who was lassoed with invisible cords of love for a beautiful temptress, Delilah, who held him fast until he lost out with God. Then she deserted him. Many a young life has been wrecked playing with fire, the world, and lust, and in the end they wish they had not.

It took time, and before he realized it, Samson had lost out by talking. If only he had kept his mouth shut and had kept the secret of his power and consecration to himself. He was like a fountain pen which leaks out when it is running low. Samson had played with the world for so long that he was running low in the strength of the Spirit, and now he lost out. It was a dangerous thing for Samson to let anyone trifle and play with his locks, but he allowed Delilah — a pawn in the hand of the devil — to do just that.



Samson's shorn [sheared] locks may have made him look more popular now, more fit for the modern church, but the preacher or saints who have been shorn break God's heart. They cannot be used until their locks of consecration have grown back again. We cannot make them grow other than by waiting upon The Lord. Locks must have divine tonic to grow rapidly, and — when they do — they begin to prophesy trouble and judgment to the devil and his crowd. Someone said that it is like raising a red flag to a fierce bull. Yet, a minister who raises his voice against worldly pleasures — either inside or outside of the church — is often ignored or ridiculed. There are those in the world and the church who will insist upon indulging in the pleasures of the world, despite the cost. For some, the cost will be their eternal soul.

It would be well for us to heed the warnings given to us in Scripture, and FLEE from the seductions of this world.

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<sup>1</sup>Rodney "Gypsy" Smith MBE (31 March 1860 – 4 August 1947) was a British evangelist who conducted evangelistic campaigns in the United States and Great Britain for over 70 years. (From Wikipedia)

***1 Corinthians 6:18: Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.***

***1 Corinthians 10:14: Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.***

***1 Timothy 6:11: But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after Righteousness, Godliness, Faith, Love, Patience, Meekness.***

***2 Timothy 2:22 : Flee also youthful lusts: but follow Righteousness, Faith, Charity, Peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.***

To where should you go when you are fleeing from sin? To the Lord. He is a strong tower and will keep you safe from the seductions of this world.

***Proverbs 18:10: The Name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.***

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