



Principles of True Love: Attraction Is Physiological, Compatibility Is Soulful; Wilcox's "Sweet Danger"; Possessiveness Can Be Positive or Negative

SOS 1:7 - [SW] "Tell me, O you whom my soul loves ..."

28. Principles from this statement by the Shulammitte:

- (1) True love is a function of the soul from which legitimate passions and desires find their origin. These feelings are normal and are designed for the pleasure of right man and right woman in marriage. Sex is the ritual by which soul love is expressed by allowing these passions and desires to be fulfilled in a mutual exchange of uninhibited and harmonious alternation of aggression and submission.
- (2) These passions and desires are a part of human physiology that Paul describes by the verb "to burn." *Puroō* is defined by Friedrich [*Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, 6:948] as "to be consumed with the fire of sexual desire."
- (3) These feelings are to be controlled and isolated for expression with one's right person. However, prior to marriage people are attracted to quite a number of individuals of the opposite sex.
- (4) Simultaneously with these associations the physiology of both the man and the woman burns under the concept of *puroō*.
- (5) This is not true love. It is the soul that makes the identification of right man-right woman, not the body. All souls are identical in essence:
 - (1) There is self-consciousness which is the ability to have self-awareness,
 - (2) mentality, which is the ability to think, reason, and reach conclusions,
 - (3) volition, the power to make autonomous choices for which one must be held personally responsible, and
 - (4) conscience, the compartment of the stream of consciousness in which are developed norms and standards, a scale of values, and an inventory of moral absolutes that distinguish the differences between right and wrong, good and evil, righteousness and wickedness.
- (6) What is in a person's soul is what is loved. Attractiveness is simply a common means by which people become acquainted. It takes the exchange of ideas for them to get to know each other so that soul analysis can take place.
- (7) When this exchange of ideas is stimulating, enjoyable, and pleasing it becomes the first positive indicator to continue the association.
- (8) Attraction is totally physical. It includes not only one's overall physical appearance but also his or her personality traits. One may like the voice, the physical mannerisms, the facial structure, physique, color of hair or eyes, and of course the smile.



- (9) But this is only the introduction. The relationship must progress by means of learning who and what the person is and this requires getting into their souls and learning how they think.

Wilcox, Ella Wheeler. "Sweet Danger." In *Poems of Love*. (Chicago: M. A. Donohue & Co., 1905), 9-10:

"Sweet Danger"

The danger of war, with its havoc of life,
The danger of ocean, when storms are rife,
The danger of jungles, where wild beasts hide,
The danger that lies in the mountain slide,—
Why, what are they but all mere child's play,
Or the idle sport of a summer day,
Beside those battles that stir and vex
The world forever, of sex with sex?

The warrior returns from the captured fort,
The mariner sails to a peaceful port;
The wild beast quails 'neath the strong man's eye,
The avalanche passes the traveler by—
But who can rescue from passion's pyre
The hearts that were offered to feed its fire?
Ah! He who emerges from that fierce flame
Is scarred with sorrow or blackened with shame.

Battle and billow, and beast of prey,
Then only threaten the mortal clay;
The soul unfettered can take to wing,
But the danger of love is another thing.
Once under the tyrant Passion's control,
He crushes body, and heart, and soul.
Ah hour of rapture, an age of despair,
Ah! These are the trophies of love's warfare.

And yet forever, since time began,
Has man dared woman and woman lured man
To that sweet danger that lurks and lies
In the bloodless battle of eyes with eyes;
That reckless danger, as vast as sweet,
Whose bitter ending is joy's defeat.
Ah! Thus forever, while time shall last,
On passion's altar must hearts be cast!

- (10) After it is realized by the two people that they are compatible they may soon conclude they are right for each other.
- (11) These conclusions will lead to possessiveness, one for the other. This possessiveness can prove to be either positive or negative.
- (12) First of all, until marriage the man has no delegated authority over the woman and she has no say-so over his *modus operandi*.
- (13) Often this leads to friction as one disagrees with the other's decisions. But this is good. First of all if these decisions reveal character flaws then they become warnings to reconsider whether the person is right for you.
- (14) Secondly, if the man's decisions are biblically sound and the woman disagrees with them then it is a signal to him to reconsider her.



- (15) These are not definite indicators but they are to be considered objectively. As is often the case, no matter what the other person does when you are willing to forgive and forget, orient and adjust, tolerate and ignore, then this may well be an indicator of finding the right person.
 - (16) Possessiveness can be a positive since it indicates that a decision has been made to isolate this person from the rest of the population. This is a form of separation by declaring "this is my right person and no one else's."
 - (17) Such a decision however must not lead to jealousy. It is important to allow the other person to reach this same decision without coercion. Mental attitude sins about your selected right person and his associates can destroy the relationship.
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- 29. What is in a person's soul is what is loved. Attractiveness is simply a common means by which people become introduced. It takes the exchange of ideas for people to get to know each other so that soul analysis can take place.
 - 30. It is during this period that the stability provided by the Edification Complex of the Soul has its impact. First of all this assumes that both parties are believers who have advanced in this process to the sophisticated spiritual life starting with the foundation of the filling of the Holy Spirit.
 - 31. Meaningful evaluation of another's soul requires objective thinking from a biblical inventory found in the first floor.
 - 32. Humility is also necessary so that as you learn how the other thinks you will not evaluate it subjectively. This is a learning process and those who are arrogant and self-centered cannot learn.
 - 33. The problem-solving device of personal love for God becomes the motivation for unconditional love for your prospective right person.
 - 34. Once it is determined that you are right for each other then true happiness in the soul is amplified by this discovery.
 - 35. It is here that you begin to truly enjoy each other's company. The wondering, the questioning, the analysis is over. You are both now fused in the soul and can relax and enjoy the excitement of living life with the knowledge that God has provided you with your partner for life.