

***Matthew 7:24-27***

*"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."*

**Destructive Passions**

Although the old children's story about the three little pigs and the big bad wolf probably had political innuendoes that have long since ceased to be appreciated, the one truth about the story is the importance of making a home out of the right stuff. Considering that half the couples in North America being married today end in separation or divorce, it would seem that homes are being build with the wrong materials! I speak of the material upon which human relationships are being built.

The apostle John had some incite regarding good and bad building material: "For all that [is] in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passes away, and the lust thereof: but he that does the will of God abides for ever" (1 John 2).

There are three passions here mentioned by John that pass quickly away, and yet many couples build their entire relationship upon them. There are those that seek only physical gratification and build relationships entirely upon "what feels good", without any moral conscience. Others, although perhaps morally restrained, seek a relationship founded upon pleasures that gratify the sight (and therefore the mind) - a "look cool" value system that focuses on being invited to the "right" places and doing the "right" things. Still others build relationships on what's best for a career and what is most advantageous financially - that old "I loved the girl next door, but I married the bankers daughter" approach.

John states that these passions soon pass, they have no enduring qualities. The slightest huff or puff and these relationships disintegrate. Only those who build relationships according to God's plan will endure. That plan begins with a relationship to God through new life in His Son, and grows into a capacity to love others as God loves us: "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." (1 John 4 NIV) It is this love that God calls man to build relationships upon.

Paul speaks of the enduring quality and special characteristics of God's number one building material: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." (1 Corinthians 13 NIV). This is the building "stuff" that lasts a life time, out of this a relationship flourishes.

No matter how "happy" a home begins, eventually the big bad wolf comes a huffing and a puffing! Whether your home fades or flourishes will depend upon the building material!

***What is my response:***

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