

## The Simplicity of Love

*I am jealous for you with God's own jealousy, for I promised you in marriage to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. But I fear that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts might be led astray from a simplicity toward Christ. (2 Corinthians 11:2-3, author's translation)*

We are engaged to Christ, and we need to hold onto the simplicity of that relationship.

I was drawn to the word "simplicity" in the above verses because at times, my Christianity has seemed anything but simple. My relationship with God seemed fuzzy, distant, and strained. I wasn't sure what was expected of me, nor how to accomplish it. And I wasn't sure what God thought of me with all my failures.

In the original language, the word translated "simplicity" means a singleness of mind and heart. No pretending. No divided loyalties. The word is used lots of different ways in the Bible. Sometimes "purity" is the sense. That's the case above, where the writer refers to the faithfulness of a bride to her husband. Sometimes "sincerity" fits well. When connected with financial giving, "generosity" is the meaning. We're urged to give with a "simplicity" that gives openly, holding nothing back. After all, that's the way God gives to us (see James 1:5).

But with all these shades of meaning, the one word that summarizes it best for me is "wholeheartedness." That means having one purpose and one loyalty. It's a singleness of mind that expresses itself in undistracted devotion.

Notice in the opening scripture that this undistracted devotion comes from an intimate, face-to-face love. It's like the wholeheartedness of a marriage engagement. If you're married, do you remember your engagement? Spending time together, sharing feelings and concerns, expressing genuine love, being totally faithful to each other – all these actions were so natural. You felt no strain, no obligation, no dry routine. You did it all because you simply enjoyed each other. You were in love.

Your relationship with Jesus Christ can be like that. Look to Him, and discover how beautiful He is, and how wonderful He can be in Your daily life. Fall in love with Him – or if you've known Him, fall in love all over again.

Never forget that being a Christian is nothing but the simplicity and wholeheartedness of a personal love relationship with Jesus Christ as a living, wonderful Being.

Hymn: [An Undivided Heart](#)