

Liquid Love Never Remains

Zygmunt Bauman, a brilliant analyst of our times, talks about a ‘liquid society’ where nothing remains in place steadily, everything changes capriciously. Unfortunately, this trend affects marriage also. These are bad times for faithfulness and life-long love. There is a ‘liquid love’, a light, fragile, superficial kind of love. It is fleeting as an emotion, adaptable as liquid. Surely, this sort of love sustains nothing and eventually disintegrates a relationship.

Pablo Martinez was a European Leadership Forum steering committee member for more than 10 years. He currently works as a psychiatrist at a private practice in Barcelona. He has also developed a wide ministry as a counsellor and itinerant speaker. He has been a plenary Bible teacher in more than 30 countries. He served as one of the vice-presidents of the International Christian Medical and Dental Association (ICMDA). He filled the role of President of the Spanish Evangelical Alliance (1999-2009) and Professor of Pastoral Psychology at the Spanish Theological Seminary for seven years. His books have been published in 14 languages. His most recent works (to be launched in summer 2018) are *Mad or God?: Jesus, the Healthiest Mind of All* (Inter-Varsity Press, England, co-authored with Prof. Andrew Sims) and *Take Care of Yourself: Survive and Thrive in Ministry* (Hendrickson Publishers & Lausanne Movement). For more information see <http://www.christian-thought.org>

Introduction:

These are bad times for faithfulness and life-long love. Today, relationships tend to be ephemeral; the very idea of love seems increasingly diluted in an atmosphere of hedonism, in which the first priority is ‘to feel good and be happy.’

One main reason is often used to justify the split of a relationship:

-“I do not love him/her anymore”: The myth of the loss of the loving **feeling** “

Three arguments will help us see the weakness of this misconception.

I. Being in love is much more than “the bliss from the beginning”

- A. We cannot reduce being in love to a mere emotion, especially to the original emotion, “what I used to feel at the beginning of the relationship”.
- B. Being in love is much more than feeling a certain “chemistry” from the beginning. The exact and true phrase should be: “I don't feel the same as I used to at the beginning”.

II. Romantic love changes, but its quality remains

- A. The romantic dimension of love can last many years, but it changes in how it is felt and how it is shown.

- B. It is like the course of a river: the water changes, but it keeps being the same river

III. Love is much more than a feeling

- A. Romantic love is essential for the proper growth of relationships, but not the only one.
- B. The other dimensions of love:
 - i. Love is friendship. The center of gravity lies in the “we”
 - ii. Love is self- giving. The center of gravity lies in the “you”
 - iii. Love is affection. A mysterious sense of mutual belonging