

Epithumia (Defined, Discussed)

Attraction love (Epithumia) – (Receives) "puppy love" an infatuation for people and things

Epithumia – a strong desire of any kind. . . It can take either one of two directions: towards virtue and God or towards passion and inordinate attachment. In the negative sense, it is translated "lust." In the positive sense, it is translated "desire" or "love." When it comes to romantic relationships, this is the emotion that gets people into a lot of trouble. Though a strong desire for one's partner is needed in a marriage relationship, if it is not blended with the other aspects of love, **epithumia** can easily become selfish and self-centered. When that occurs, **epithumia** becomes lust rather than healthy desire.

It's the kind of love we experience at various stages of our lives. It happens when we don't want to lose people whom we think we love the most. It's the kind of love that brings a sense of insecurity in us, forcing us to have, or maintain the relation rather than enjoying it.

Epithumia – What does the Bible say? Attraction love (Epithumia) – (Receives) "puppy love" an infatuation for people and things.

W. E. Vine summarizes **epithumia** as follows: **epithumia** denotes "strong desire" of any kind, the various kinds being frequently specified by some adjective. In the NT **epithumia** is occasionally used in a good sense. For example Jesus uses the verb form **epithumeo**, speaking to His disciples that *"I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer."* ([Luke 22:15](#))

Paul writes: *"I am hard-pressed from both directions (to live or die), having the desire (**epithumia**) to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better."* (See [Philippians 1:23](#)) Paul writes to the Thessalonians that *"we (Paul, Silas, Timothy), brethren, having been bereft of you for a short while – in person, not in spirit – were all the more eager with great desire (**epithumia**) to see your face."* (See [1 Thessalonians 2:17](#))

Epithumia is used in a good sense referring to the natural, legitimate and necessary God given desires (e.g., hunger, thirst, sex, etc.) which are fulfilled in a God honoring way.

Most often **epithumia** in the NT describes strong desires which are perverted and unrestrained and which originate from our SIN (flesh) nature, which is corrupt and fallen.

Epithumia (Defined, Discussed) (Continued)

In [Rom. 6:12](#) *“Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.”*

The injunction against letting sin reign in our mortal body to obey the "lust" thereof refers to those evil desires which are ready to express themselves in bodily activity. They are equally the "lusts" of the flesh,

[Rom. 13:14](#); *“But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof”*

[Gal. 5:16, 24](#);

Vs. 16 – *“This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”*

Vs. 24 – *“And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.”*

[Eph. 2:3](#); *“Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”*

[2 Pet. 2:18](#); *“For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.”*

[1 John 2:16](#), *“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.”*

A phrase which describes the emotions of the soul, the natural tendency towards things evil, such "lusts" are not necessarily base and immoral. They may be refined in character, but are evil if inconsistent with the will of God.

Other descriptions, besides those already mentioned, include:

“Of the mind,”

[Eph. 2:3](#); *“Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”*

Epithumia (Defined, Discussed) (Continued)

"evil (desire),"

Col. 3:5; *"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:*

"The passion of,"

1 Thess. 4:5, *"Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God,"*

"foolish and hurtful,"

1 Tim. 6:9; *"But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition." "youthful,"*

2 Tim. 2:22; *"Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."*

"divers,"

2 Tim. 3:6; *"For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,"*

Titus 3:3; *"For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another."*

"their own,"

2 Tim. 4:3; *"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;"*

2 Pet. 3:3; *"Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,"*

Epithumia (Defined, Discussed) (Continued)

[Jude 1:16](#); *“These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.”*

“worldly,”

[Titus 2:12](#); *“Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;”*

“his own,”

[James 1:14](#); *“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.”*

[Study Here – [Body-Soul-Spirit Diagrams](#)]

“Your former,”

[1 Pet. 1:14](#), *“As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:*

“fleshly,”

[1 Pet. 2:11](#); *“Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;”*

“Of men,”

[1 Pet. 4:2](#); *“that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.”*

“Of defilement”

[2 Pet. 2:10](#); *“But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government, presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.”*

“Of the eyes,”

Epithumia (Defined, Discussed) (Continued)

1 John 2:16; “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”

“Of the world” (“thereof”),

1 John 2:17; “And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abides forever.”

“Their own ungodly,”

Jude 1:18. “How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.”

In *Rev. 18:14*

“(the fruits) which thy soul lusted after”

“And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.”