

10/29/06      Cars Are for Getting There ... and Back

How does one “love his/her automobile?” Is that some perversion, beyond bestiality? It makes sense to appreciate it, enjoy it, and value its functionality, performance and its artistic and well-engineered contours and design. But, - “love it”!!? – That’s a bit over the top isn’t it?

We often use language loosely, even recklessly, but I dare say that some people after considering idioms and modes of hyperbole, would still affirm that they literally ‘love’ their mode of transportation. Perhaps we should start an “e-harmony” love-connection web-site for pairing up auto-owners and their metallic, fiberglass or plastic soul-mates. I am sure there are many spouses that would feel elevated if they felt they were loved, respected, and cared for as much as their spouses’ wheeled companions.

Don’t get me wrong. I believe that all have the right to have a hobby, sport or special interests that they are very enthusiastic about, desiring to talk-shop with other enthusiasts in an environment of comradarie on such things as cars. That is not a problem, though I hope you love those with whom you have comradeship more than you love the cars or cycles. - Do you? – That is a Christian-perspective and values checkpoint. Well, do you?

Having Christ live in us does not disallow us from having hobbies or a multitude of interests. I favor people having many interests. However, Christ requires certain prioritizing in our lives. One is loving God above all things. The other is not loving others less than ourselves. I believe few people love their car so much that they would sacrifice their own life to keep the car off the scrape heap for another few years. Hopefully, that means that you do not love your car in the same extreme as, extent and manner as you love humans. However, in some cases the evidence seems to be obscure. I have met people who convinced me that they do love their soulless vehicles more than they love their fellow humans.

I hope your car gets you to where you need to go and back again safely. I do not hope it is used to fill in a relational gap you have with God or people. Let us keep our perspective a Christian one. Avoid excesses of passion towards any or all earthly things that will rust or recycle (Mt. 6:19-20; Ja. 5:3). For others it may be their homes, country club, business, animals, sports, - and the list goes on and on. So, the point is not to pick on auto-enthusiasts more than on any others. It is simply a convenient example on which to articulate a principle. Let us thus be sound in mind and spirit to circumspectly place our affections foremost where God directs them (Mt. 22:36-40).