

# Whitney Houston's Struggles

Whitney Houston, singer and actress who passed away in 2012, was one of the most awarded female artists ever, and remains one of the best-selling music performers of all time with 200 million records sold worldwide.

Houston, who began singing in church as a child, released seven studio albums and two soundtrack albums, all of which have been certified diamond, multi-platinum, platinum or gold by the Recording Industry Association of America.

In an interview with Diane Sawyer in 2002, she discussed the pain and frustration she experienced in her failed comeback attempt. At one point in the interview, she turned to Sawyer and asked, "Have you ever heard the sound of 10,000 people disappointed in you?"



Hailed as perhaps the greatest vocalist of all time, Houston once stood atop the music industry as the unchallenged queen of pop. The greatness of her talent was met by an equally magnanimous outpouring of love from millions of fans the world over. But when her abuse of drugs and other related habits finally robbed her of that golden voice, the cheers turned to jeers.

She had risen to the pinnacle of admiration like few others, only to have it all melt away as soon as her flaws were revealed. The rejection left her confidence wavering from the resonating sound of her fans' disapproval. Even so, in that same interview, Houston declared emphatically, "I know this – *Jesus* loves me!" It was a declaration she would assert profoundly, even at the occasion of her final public appearance the night before she died.

Despite her flaws and self-doubt, there was one thing she did not question: the love of Jesus. What a critical realization, one which highlights the important distinction between the love of the world and the love of God. The former is fickle and fleeting; the latter is sure and eternal.

If an adored star like Whitney Houston could suffer the pain of this world's fickle love, don't think it won't treat you the same – or worse! After all, no one is perfect; we are all sinners.

The sad truth is we must conceal our flaws if we hope to hang on to the love of this world. But not so with the love of God, whose love is felt most strongly when we lead off with them in a time of confession and repentance.

*And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them (1 John 4:16 NIV).*

– Beecher Hunter