

What is Love?

The best definition of Love is found in 1 Corinthians chapter 13 in the Bible. It describes the nature of God as it should look in human relationships. Unfortunately, even among those who are familiar with that passage of the Bible, they look at it as an ideal, not something to be practically applied in life.

I feel like what is lacking the most in our world today is that kind of love. Not just in romantic relationships, in all relationships, and in regard toward other humans. What we call love or the basis for a relationship between any two or more people is really more like a business agreement. It isn't even considered that strong to many. People who would not back out on a business deal will just blow off another person, regardless of relationship with little apparent concern.

The key element is selfishness. Relationships are only for the purpose of fulfilling one's selfish needs, and if and when those needs are no longer being met by the relationship, they just leave. Or, they just stop trying to even connect at all with the other person. Many "friendships" just fade away. There isn't any disagreement, just one person doesn't feel the need for the other anymore and just drifts off. It all comes down to the value the person puts on the "product" they get from the relationship. They eagerly seek what they want, drink freely from the knowledge or kindness shown to them, then they go away, thinking they got enough of what they wanted.

How did we get to this point? Have these people not been loved? Did no one sacrifice themselves for them at any point which they can remember? At the most basic level, God is love, and those who have no relationship with Him really can't understand true love. But I have seen people devoted to a spouse or a child who don't have a close relationship with God. I believe that those people had someone in their early lives that did love God and learned how to love properly from Him. I guess our society is so very far from God, and media screams at us over and over to indulge ourselves because we deserve it, that it is very hard for someone outside of a home where God is loved and cherished to learn anything about love at all.

The most disturbing is when a form of religious practice is supposedly in the home, but it is not the real thing. Parents don't love one another and don't love their children. This leads to children not respecting parents or loving each other. Then we have all manner of mixed up relationship homes with various levels of "religious" beliefs, lots of parents, step parents, siblings who are half or not related at all, many grandparents and a basic mess. Kids get tossed from home to home and a bewildering barrage of different ideologies get thrown at them. Many times there is a deliberate attempt to undermine another parent's belief system out of spite. This of course is not any display of love. Then there are the "intact" families who are equally dysfunctional, but constantly blast any other type of family because at least they are together, as if that alone is a virtue.

Personally, I am praying for the Holy Spirit to reveal TRUE LOVE to our community and those I have contact with. I know that if these people, especially those who at least try to have a semblance of religious belief, experienced the real love of Jesus, they would respond. They would repent. They would cry, Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord God Almighty. Please dear Lord, we need you, desperately. Send your Holy Spirit. Descend on us, we pray.