

TRUE LOVE

Just what is True Love? -- Perhaps we had better define these two words before we go any farther --

TRUE -- Faithful, Loyal, In Accordance with Fact, Not False.

LOVE -- A Deep Affection for Someone or Something -- A Passionate Affection.

SO -- putting the two together we come up with -- Faithful, Loyal, Passionate Affection for Someone.

The Psalmist very lovingly puts it this way -- *"O God, You are my God -- early will I seek You . . . because Your Lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall Praise You"* (Psalm 63:1,3) -- this is a real expression of True Love.

King Solomon gives us this comparison -- *"Hatred stirs up strife -- but (True) Love covers all sins"* (Proverbs 10:12).

Jesus told His disciples (and us) -- *"If you Love Me, keep My Commandments"* (John 14:15). So we see that True Love requires Commitment.

The best example of True Love is our very familiar verse -- *"For God so Loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever Believes in Him should not perish, but have Everlasting Life"* (John 3:16). Here, True Love involves Giving rather than Getting.

In the Book of Romans, the Apostle Paul admonishes us -- *"Let (True) Love be without hypocrisy -- Abhor what is evil -- Cling to that which is Good"* (Romans 12:9).

And then if we look at what I consider the real True Love chapter in the Bible -- 1 John, chapter 4, where we find the Apostle John fully explaining the True Love of God. First of all look at two very important verses in the matter -- verses 8 and 16 where we find the words -- "GOD IS LOVE" -- Here is the basis of True Love -- GOD'S LOVE!

He begins in verse 7 with -- *"Let us Love one another, for Love is of God -- and everyone who Loves is Born of God and knows God."* This word Born used here is not referring to our natural birth but to Jesus' own statement to Nicodemus that *"You must be Born Again"* (John 3:7). To be Born Again is to receive God's Gift of Salvation and have a New Life in Christ.

John also tells us -- *"In this the Love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him"* (1 John 4:9) -- and -- *"We Love Him because He first Loved us"* (vs.19).

Now we're back to the title of this article -- "TRUE LOVE" -- and we have seen that the only True Love is the Love we find in knowing and accepting the God of Creation -- and His Gift of Life in His Son Jesus Christ -- into our hearts.

True Love cannot be found in physical relationships on this earth -- we may Truly Love our spouse, children, parents and relatives, and even our fellow humans, but much of which is called love today is merely infatuation and/or lust.

“You shall Love the Lord your God with ALL your heart, with ALL your soul, and with ALL your might”
(Deuteronomy 6:5). If you can fulfill this command, then Loving those closest to you on this earth will be
no problem.

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