

True Love: Love for a lifetime



True Love; there are almost as many definitions and ideas about it as there are people on the planet. Many people think true love is something we find, something that is *there* or *not there*. or a feeling. While the euphoric feelings of love are not wrong (in fact, they are something God gave us), we must realize that, Biblically, true love is a commitment to love for a lifetime—no matter what.

Paul wrote in Ephesians 5:1- 2; “Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” We can all agree that Jesus demonstrated *true love* by giving Himself up for us—by purchasing us by His blood for the Father. But do we imitate Him and demonstrate true love ourselves—especially when our spouse is less than perfect? Are we growing in love? Do we *excel* in love?

Friends, John took this a step further when he wrote; “This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.” (1 John 3:10) Love is the very foundation of our Christianity. We are children of God if we love our brother—spouse included. Love is not a list of things to do; yes, we have the *Love Chapter*—1Corinthians 13, but even in that list, love is about an attitude, not what we do or don’t do. Do we have an attitude of love towards our spouse, children, family, friends, even strangers on the street?

Love is not something we master, it is a life long journey. It is a matter of making our lives about others, not ourselves. Jesus came to serve, not be served and we must have that same attitude (see Philippians 2:3-7). When we truly die to self and take on Jesus’ servant attitude, we will not only see changes in our marriages, but also in our families, churches, communities, even in our nation. **True Love;** there really is only one definition. It is demonstrating Christ’s love to others—it is loving for a lifetime, not matter what.

Helpful Resources: *Fortified Marriages Resource page:* www.fortifiedmarriages.com

Book to check out: *A Lifelong Love* by Gary Thomas

Articles to check out:

True Life-Long Commitment by Chris Garner - www.fortifiedmarriages.com

The Christian Virtue of Love by R.C. Sproul - www.ligonier.org