

What Is Love? Baby Don't Hurt me...

Isn't it Lovely?

What is Love? What does it mean to love someone? How can we truly love and not like? Can't we fall in love without loving someone? If love is a choice, then how come I feel like I really love this or that person? Take a couple of minutes and write down all the questions you have about love after I said "Love is not a feeling, it is a choice" and "falling in love is not an emotion." Then we are going to try our best to answer all of your questions.

Hollywood Love

One of the hurdles you are being forced to jump over is this idea that love is a feeling. Do you know where you find this idea? Where in the Bible can you see this idea? I'll give you a hint, nowhere. The idea of love being a feeling or an emotion comes straight out of Hollywood. Movies, T.V. and music all try to convince you that love is a feeling. It is not. Everything you will ever find in Scripture about love portrays it as a choice, something you actively attempt to do with your mind. Even Jesus Himself displayed love for us because He chose to come to earth as a human; He chose to minister here in person, He CHOSE to die for our sins. He chose to rise again because He wanted us to live with him forever.

Love Defined

Take a few moments and try to list out all the feelings you get when you feel as if you are "in Love" What are some of the emotions you feel? Let's look at a passage of scripture that tells us what love is. 1 Corinthians 13.

According to good ol' Noah Webster (the dictionary dude) Love means this:

Main Entry: ¹love

Function: noun

1 a (1) : strong affection for another arising out of kinship or personal ties <maternal love for a child> (2) : attraction based on sexual desire : affection and tenderness felt by lovers (3) : affection based on admiration, benevolence, or common interests <love for his old schoolmates> **b** : an assurance of love <give her my love>
2 : warm attachment, enthusiasm, or devotion <love of the sea>
3 a : the object of attachment, devotion, or admiration <baseball was his first love> **b** (1) : a beloved person : **DARLING** -- often used as a term of endearment (2) *British* -- used as an



informal term of address

4 a : unselfish loyal and benevolent concern for the good of another: as (1) : the fatherly concern of God for humankind (2) : brotherly concern for others **b** : a person's adoration of God

5 : a god or personification of love

6 : an amorous episode : [LOVE AFFAIR](#)

7 : the sexual embrace : [COPULATION](#)

8 : a score of zero (as in tennis)

9 capitalized, Christian Science : [GOD](#)

- **at love** : holding one's opponent scoreless in tennis

- **in love** : inspired by affection

Here is what Papa Webster tells us love means. But how in the world can we have 9 DIFFERENT MEANINGS?!?!? The answer is simple. English is horrible and cannot truly encompass the meaning of love.

The three Loves

Here is where we really get into the real problem of love. There are 3 different types of love that we can show toward others. Can you name them?

Agape - Agape is the love we are called to practice for everyone around us. It is love that is unconditional, love that forgives, that really takes other's interests and feelings to heart. The love that you must have to really be able to show people Jesus. This love requires you to have little commitment to others beyond caring for them and forgiving their transgressions.

Philos - This is brotherly love. The love you share with your best friend, the love you have for your family, your brothers, your sisters, your parents. This love offers more than Agape. It allows you to get closer to others. It is the love that you should really focus on in any dating relationship. This requires more commitment than Agape Love does. This requires you to go in 50-50 in a relationship. You give a lot, but you do not give everything.

Eros - This is the deepest love, shared only truly through a husband and wife. It involves a love that requires you to give yourself entirely to your husband or wife. It is the love which requires the most commitment. You offer up everything you have, and this is the love that has you being the most intimate with another person. And yes, it is the only love that is sexual. This love is 100 % on both sides of the coin. This is a love that God calls us to have with Him, and that is why He set up sex in marriage as only to happen in marriage. It is the most intimate act you can have with another person, and He wants it to be an example for how you are to be intimate with Him; giving everything you have, and accepting everything He has, being completely open and honest with each other.



Love or Infatuation?

Getting back to the whole Hollywood Love idea, a lot of you talk about falling in love as being something that you just have happen to you. You feel intense emotions and affection for someone, and that causes you to start to love them right?

The best way to truly explain the process of falling in love is this. You feel the tug of emotions, the affection that someone inspires in you. You then feel as if you know this person intimately, and you want to be in relationship with them, right? Now, you can call that falling in love, but what you are really falling into is infatuation, adoration, respect, and quite possibly, into lust. If love is a choice as we all have agreed, then how can you fall into a choice?

And remember, sacrifice in this realm is not surrendering who God made you to be to fit someone else's idea of who you should be, but letting go of some of your personal desires. Giving up anything that would get in the way of what God wants, not giving up who He made you to be for your girlfriend or boyfriend. Sacrifice is seeking after God's will first, not our own selfish desires. Remember, emotions come with love, but they are not love in and of themselves. The point of tonight was not to tell you that you are not in love with someone, or that you do not love someone, but to help you understand what love really is, and that it is not what the world tells you it is.

Love Passages

1 Corinthians 13

Ephesians 4

1 John 15. 11-13

Psalms 103.8-13

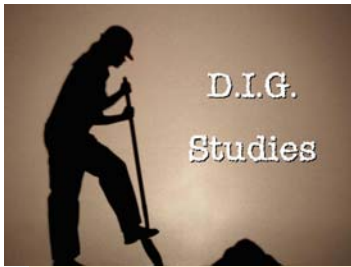
John 13.34,35

Proverbs 17.17

1 John 4.9-10

Firehouse Ministries





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Take a couple of minutes and write down all the questions you have about love after I said "Love is not a feeling, it is a choice" and "falling in love is not an emotion." Then we are going to try our best to answer all of your questions.

What are some of the emotions you feel when you are "in love?"

1 Corinthians 13. 4-7

Take a minute and write the opposite of what love is according to this passage.

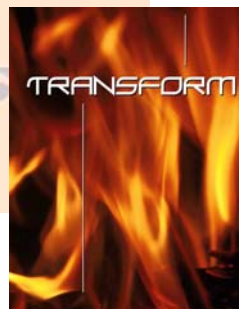
The Three Loves

Agape Love -

Philos Love -

Eros Love -

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SCRIPTURE TO REMEMBER ABOUT LOVE



1 Corinthians 13.4 - 7

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged. It is never glad about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. (NLT)

*Love never gives up.
Love cares more for others than for self.
Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.
Love doesn't strut,
Doesn't have a swelled head,
Doesn't force itself on others,
Isn't always "me first,"
Doesn't fly off the handle,
Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,
Doesn't revel when others grovel,
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,
Puts up with anything,
Trusts God always,
Always looks for the best,
Never looks back,
But keeps going to the end. (The Message)*

1 John 15.11-13

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. (NIV)

John 3. 34,35

So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." (NLT)

1 John 4. 9 - 11

This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him. This is the kind of love we are talking about--not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God. My dear, dear friends, if God loved us like this, we certainly ought to love each other. (The Message)

Other Good Passages to Look Up

Psalms 103.8-13

Proverbs 17.17

Ephesians 5.22 - 33

The 3 Loves

*Agape - Unconditional Love for everyone
Phelos - Brotherly Love for people you are close to
Eros - Romantic, intimate love for your Spouse, and for God*