

What is Love?

And for How Long

Comment

You can have the most fantastic family, the greatest grandchildren, the most caring spouse and your 'Love connection with them is unmeasurable' but are there any 'buts.'

Perhaps that question may appear to be rather odd.

Slide 1

Lets rewind

Definition of Love

1. An intense feeling of deep affection e.g. Parents and children, Husband and wife.

Or

2. A great interest and pleasure in something.eg the love of Football

Observation – Film comment – Love is an extra ordinary thing.... And it is

Slide 2 - Some Questions

Is it possible to accurately define love?

Is it possible that everyone can experience love?

Is it possible to love anything and everything?

Is it possible that love could cost you everything?

Is it possible to refuse to be loved?

Can you hurt someone if you truly love them. And can you forgive regardless of the hurt caused?

Is everyone loved and capable of being loved regardless of who they are, and what they have done?

Question

If us human beings are so intelligent and have it all together, can true love be like seeking the Holy grail.

Two Classic songs – who sang them

What's love got to do with it Tina Turner

Oh-oh-oh, what's love got to do, got to do with it?

What's love, but a second-hand emotion?

What's love got to do, got to do with it?

Who needs a heart when a heart can be broken?

Foreinger – I want to know what Love is

In my life, there's been heartache and pain

I don't know if I can face it again

Can't stop now, I've travelled so far

To change this lonely life

I wanna know what love is

I want you to show me

I wanna feel what love is

I know you can show me (hey)

Haddaway - What is Love

What is love?

Oh baby, don't hurt me

Don't hurt me

No more

We read last week about the greatest commandment

Matthew 22. 36-40

³⁷ Jesus replied: “**Love** the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’^[a] ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it:

‘**Love** your neighbor as yourself.’^[b] ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

And Love is one of the factors that determine the fruit of the Spirit.

Being loved and showing love is so important to all of us

Galatians 5 Vs 22

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is **love**, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

AGAPE love

in John 21:15–16, He used the Greek word agape, which refers to **unconditional love**.

Jesus asked Peter 3 times if he loved him, 3 times Peter said yes, but 3 times Jesus also gave Peter an instruction on what to do with the sheep. Love wasn't just a response to a question but involved a **response requiring action and for the rest of his natural life**.

Many people are weighed down by guilt.

On too many occasions people can be weighed down by guilt, we have all made mistakes, but sometimes our past can haunt us. A while back I was talking to someone who had served in the armed forces, and they said this to me **'I have seen things and done things that no one should ever have been asked to do.'** From that day to this that person will continually reflect on their past.

How do we break free, how do we change the mindset, how do we tip the balance. How can a person's mind and heart be changed from the weight of guilt and shame to one of peace, contentment, joy, and a positive force for good.

But life started with such optimism.

When we look back at our birth – there is celebration.

At the Birth of a child the parents rejoice, a bundle of joy, perhaps so many plans and expectations, but the journey of life as we know it can be uncertain.

When you come to know Jesus as you Lord and Saviour

Luke 15:7

⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

We can only break free of shame and guilt by accepting that Jesus can forgive

One of the biggest barriers for the Unconditional love of Jesus Christ is accepting that **The Lord forgives.**

But it wasn't always like that

Hebrews 8 Vs 9

It will not be like the covenant

I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of Egypt,
because they did not remain faithful to my covenant,
and I turned away from them,
declares the Lord.

Forgiveness

Isaiah 43.25

“I, even I, am he who blots out
your transgressions, for my own sake,
and remembers your sins no more.

Hebrews 8:12

For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more

And again

Hebrews 10 vs 17

Then he adds ‘Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more’

But how do we get to the point of being forgiven and possess eternal life

We must repent which means to turn away from our past ways and put Jesus Christ first

Romans 3.23

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

John 3:16

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not **perish** but have eternal life.

And this is the promise that we hold fast too.

So what is Love

For me its focussing on

- Jesus Christ daily
- Acknowledging that he has died on the cross for me sins.
- I was a rag but in Jesus Christ I am now pure a new creation **2 Corinthians 5:17**
¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:^[a] The old has gone, the new is here!
- My eternal future is secure, and I will spend an eternal future with Jesus Christ just as Jesus said to the thief on the cross **Luke 23:43** 'I tell you the truth Today you will be with me in paradise.'