



The

100+ Years
Serving Jesus

Link

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February 2020

Worship, Sun: 10:00 am
Bible Study, Sun: 11:00 am
Bible Study, Tues: 6:30 pm

What is love?

Most people consider love to be an emotion, a way of feeling toward another person (and maybe toward animals or objects). But that is really a chemical reaction like heartburn or the taste of food in your mouth.

Love is not an emotion. It is an action. It is a way of acting toward another person. Paul gives a list of actions that love does or, in the case of some negatives, what love does not do. "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres" (1 Cor 13:4-7).

That is a pretty tall order of things to do or not to do. I doubt that any normal person could accomplish all of the actions that Paul lists for a whole month, let alone their entire life. Paul, himself, wasn't always able to accomplish all of those actions. Before Paul became a follower of Jesus, while he was still known as Saul, he persecuted the followers of Jesus, causing many to be imprisoned. That was not a loving action.

So, if Paul knows that we can't live up to the list of actions that he calls love, why does he give them to us? The answer is simple. Paul is describing "perfect" love so we have a goal for which to strive. Without a standard we would each decide for ourselves what actions are love and follow those. That would allow some people to abuse children and call it love.

Paul's list of loving actions is not a complete list. He wasn't trying to define love, only show that it was more important than spiritual gifts. But we do have a complete definition of love given to us by John, who was called the apostle of love.

In the first of three letters that he wrote to followers of Jesus, in the sixteenth verse of the fourth chapter, John says that "God is love." Since God is the Creator of the universe it follows that he is the one who defines everything in the universe. And he defines the actions that are love by his own actions. That is why John wrote in his story about Jesus' life that "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" (John 3:16).

Jesus says that if we love him we will obey his teaching (John 14:23) and he tells us to "love each other as I have loved you" (John 15:12).

Jesus tells us what the greatest expression of love is. He says, "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). But Jesus didn't just tell us about love – he demonstrated it to us. While we were still disobeying God and trying to do everything our own way (that's a definition of sinning), Jesus laid down his life as the payment for our disobedience so that we can have a right relationship with God, the Father. Jesus is God's valentine, sent to every person that will live in the world.

So, what is love? Love is putting the eternal interests of other people ahead of your own desires and doing whatever you can, even if it means your own death, to help them get to know and follow Jesus so they can accept him and experience real love.

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Keeping Love Alive In Your Marriage

By Shirley R. Wilson in *Church Herald*

At one of my bridal showers, my boss' wife, Dorothy, gave me three simple rules for marriage. Since I had observed Dorothy and her husband for two years, her advice rang true. I recounted Dorothy's words to Mark after the shower. "Don't you think these are good rules for marriage?" I asked. He agreed. In the 16 years since, we have passed on Dorothy's three rules for marriage to other young couples.

RESPECT

"Be as polite to each other and to your children as you would to your friends and guests. Talk as politely in the home as you do outside the home." Dorothy reminded me of the high respect God has for people. We are to speak only that which is "helpful for building other up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." (Eph 4:29)

After our marriage, I caught myself stewing over the what-I-considered-inordinate amount of time Mark spent on his car. "Your car is more important to you than ..." that snakelike remark only caused me to crawl on my belly. So, amidst embarrassing tears, I asked, "Mark, could we please talk?" Then we painfully discussed that detail in adjusting to marriage. Over the years, handling our kids without putdowns challenged our pride. However, through the ever-present reminders of the Holy Spirit, often using Dorothy's words or the words of the Bible, we learned to be as polite to our children as to our friends (yet we were firm when necessary).

ROMANCE

"Never let romance go out of your marriage. Say, 'I love you' every day." Go on dates. Dine by candlelight. Whatever adds sparkle to your way of showing romance, Dorothy said, do it all the years of your life together. Surely, you'll settle down like a comfortable fire, but take care to fan any dying embers.

For us, candlelight and homemade yeast rolls caused feelings of warmth to rise within, as did walks hand-in-hand, notes in lunchboxes and under pillows and on mirrors, and extra squeezes by the sink or the workbench. Lingering at the table to talk, dirty dishes at our elbows, brought back the sense of knowing where the other stood mentally. Praying, wrapped in each other's arms, reminded us that "a threefold cord (the Lord Jesus and us) is not quickly broken." (Ecc 4:12) To encourage continued "courting," we went on dates. As our children became preteens, they prodded us, "Mom and Dad, it's been a long time since you had a date." What's more romantic than that?

FORGIVENESS

"Never go to bed unhappy with each other. Be the first to say, 'I'm sorry.' Suggest early, 'Let's pray about it.'" Perhaps, hinted Dorothy, a little more instant forgiveness in "instant-oriented" America couldn't hurt anyone. To the contrary: "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." (Eph 4:32)

A popular saying, "Love is never having to say, 'I'm sorry,'" is sweet but, I think, worthless. If I hold such high expectations of myself so that I won't have to say, "I'm sorry" to Mark, then when I inevitably fail and do offend, I have to deal with both failure and pride. Saying "I'm sorry" after that is hard! If I know that I will offend – even though I don't want to – and that I can ask forgiveness and give forgiveness – then I can relax in my relationship with Mark.

Mark and I spent a few sleepless nights coming to grips with our differences, our commitment plaguing us to positive action when we could have turned our backs on each other in thick silence. We thought it better to have a few sleepless nights than nights with no mate with whom to sleep years later. I wonder if unwillingness to forgive was the "hardness of heart" to which Jesus referred when talking about divorce? (Mark 10:5) To have the rule of forgiveness alongside the rule of respect, for us, has resulted in a very satisfying marriage.

As you can see, our happiness is based on our personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Though his forgiveness and love we are set free to *really* love each other. He is the supreme example of selfless love. The Bible says, "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." (John 3:16)

When you put your faith in Christ, God forgives your sins and gives you a new capacity to love him and others.

For Better or ... Unemployed!

By Janice Backer for Missions Mosaic

“For better or worse,” the pastor said. As college graduates and newlyweds, Bob and I confidently assumed our financial future would be steady and successful. We were law-abiding, tax-paying Americans. We were faithful church-going tithers. What could possibly go wrong? Let me count the ways ...

JOB #1:

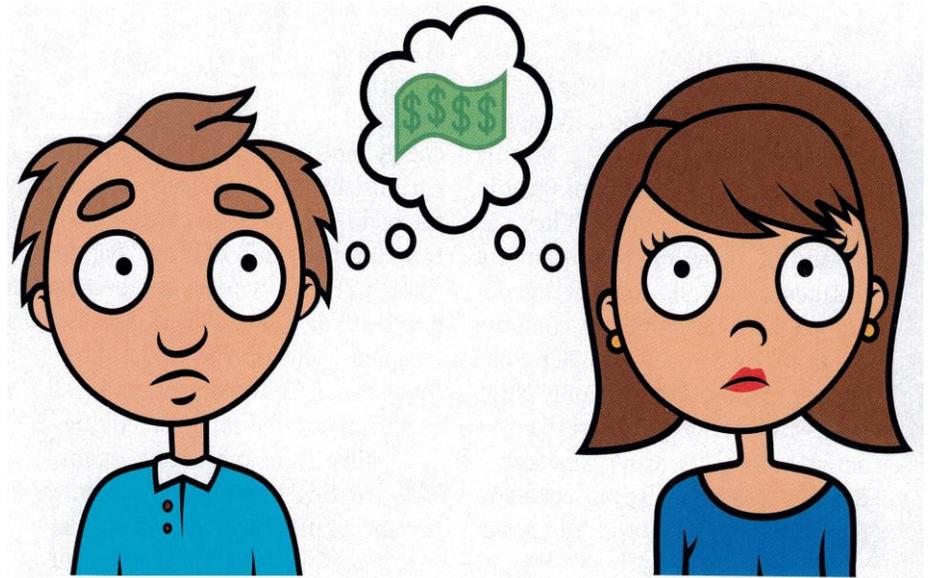
“Wait patiently on him.”

The first time Bob was unemployed, I was a stay-at-home mom and terrified. We had no income, no health insurance, two children, braces to pay for, and a mortgage. I devoured the Book of Job three times during the siege. Long-suffering Job lost everything and still he praised God and remained faithful. I learned from Job’s wife what not to do. I would not blame God. I would not “curse” my husband. (Job 2:7-10) I learned from Job’s friends what *not* to do – give shallow, arrogant advice when you have never experienced loss. No one but God truly understood what Bob was going through or why. I also learned what friends should do – care enough to show up, be quiet, and grieve. (Job 2:12-13) I was able to find full-time work, and 18 months later, Bob was employed.

JOB #2:

“How long, O Lord?”

The second time it happened, we were both employed. While I was a working mom, my



unemployed husband became “Mr. Mom” and diligently searched for job opportunities, but this time, after months with no job offers, Bob sank into despair. He had nearly given up trying. I found the Psalms a great comfort. Like David, I was sometimes angry. I felt alone and surrounded by enemies. God was our only shelter and strength. After a year, God gave my husband a great job that allowed him to share the gospel every day.

JOB #3:

“Why me, Lord?”

This job loss near retirement was devastating. Did I really have to deal with the financial, emotional, and relational challenges one more time? The answer was yes. For one year, my 63-year-old husband sent resumes, went to job interviews, and kept trying until gratefully, he accepted a lower position for half the salary.

Ride the wave. For men,

unemployment is unsettling. Since the Garden of Eden, men have been measured by the work they do, and for a husband, not working or working beneath his qualification may make him feel small, inadequate, and less of a man. He may feel “high” after an interview only to plummet to a “low” when he does not get the job. These emotions can wreak havoc on your relationship. You may both experience some or all of these emotions while facing unemployment: anger/peace, regret/relief, depression/hope, anticipation/fear, anxiety/calm, and revenge/forgiveness.

God is in control. You may feel as if your whole life is a topsy-turvy roller-coaster ride during a category five hurricane while experiencing an earthquake measuring 8 on the Richter scale followed by a tsunami. **Stop! Close your eyes. Breathe.** Say, “The Creator of the universe can calm storms, even the one in my life.” Repeat as needed.

Spotlight on Missions



Dear Readers,

Listen! Can you hear the voice of the Lord breaking through the clamor of the world around you? His banner over you is love – reaching out to cover you. His plans are special, steadfast and eternal.

January ends without even a glimpse of Spring. February dawns with new resolves and ways to honor God. Let him stir in you a deep desire to read his Word. Rest in his promises. Try to see life from his perspective. Let joy in his presence make you glad.

At Roanoke as 2019 drew to a close, we studied the prophet named Zephaniah. This verse (17) in Chapter 3 shows us how God feels about those he loves: “The Lord your God is mighty. He will save. He will reign over you with joy. He will rest in his love. He will joy over you with singing.”

Offer a song of thanks back to him. Move forward in faith. Pray with us as we help missionaries and agencies who lift up Jesus for all to see. Our activities are all about lifting him up and honoring him before people.

Love in Christ,
Alice Claire Butler

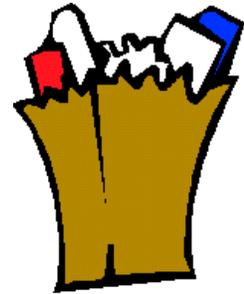
Pantry “Pleas”

And

Thank You

Thank you for your response to our pleas for January. We hope you will help us with some of the following items for February.

1. Jello and Pudding Mixes
2. Bottled Juice
3. Laundry Soap



JOIN US

Meeting: Jan 9

Carry-in lunch: Noon

Mission Study: 1 p.m.

Library News



February Cupcakes

February Birthdays

Feb 3 Colleen Killion
Feb 4 Ben Jones



Ben

With the snow, ice, and cold weather in January, we knew it really was winter in the Midwest. The books people checked out from the library gave them a good time reading when it was not so comfortable to be outside.

The Winter Reading Club will continue until Mar 29 and we look forward to more good reading as we look forward to warmer weather. There is a wide selection of both fiction and non-fiction books in the library from which to choose. I hope you will find a book to enjoy and have a good time reading!

He Loves Me
by Wayne Jacobsen

**The Language of Love,
The Two Sides of Love, and
Love is a Decision**
by Gary Smalley and John Trent

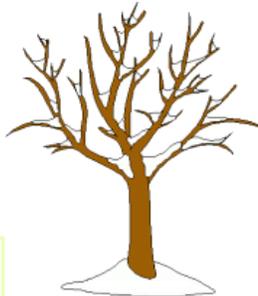
**Secrets to Lasting Love, and
Making Love Last Forever**
by Gary Smalley

Love and Anger in Marriage
by David Mace

Married Lovers – Married Friends
by Steve and Annie Chapman

Relating to Others in Love
by Charles Swindoll

Prodigals and Those Who Love Them
by Ruth Bell Graham



For God so loved the world
that He gave
His only
begotten
Son,
That whosoever
believeth
in Him
should not perish,
but have everlasting life.



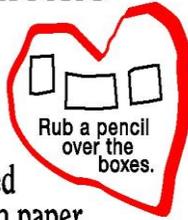
Alan Cobb



Make a Valentine for Someone Special

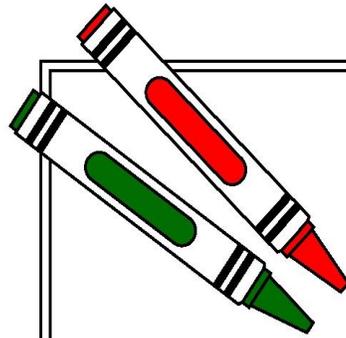
You will need:

- ♥ a sheet of red construction paper
- ♥ a sheet of white copier paper
- ♥ glue or a glue stick
- ♥ scissors
- ♥ pencil
- ♥ red marker
- ♥ fine-point black marker



How to make it:

1. Cut a large heart out of the red paper.
2. Using the leftover scraps, cut out letters (about 1 inch high) to spell "I LOVE YOU" or "GOD LOVES YOU." Glue the letters in the center of the heart.
3. Cut a heart out of the white paper. Make it about 1 inch smaller than the red one.
4. Glue the white heart on top of the red one so that a 1 inch red border shows and the letters are covered.
5. Feel where the red letters are under the white paper and draw a box around each word using the red marker. Below the last box write: Rub a pencil over the boxes to find a special message!
6. Sign your name.



Just for KIDS

A Message of Love

Luke 10:27 has a wonderful message to live by.

Find the message by writing the opposite words next to the ones given. Then transfer the letters to the numbered lines they match below.

cool	<u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u>	soft	<u>20</u> <u>21</u> <u>22</u> <u>23</u>
under	<u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>8</u>	old	<u>24</u> <u>25</u> <u>26</u> <u>27</u> <u>28</u>
out	<u>9</u> <u>10</u>	after	<u>29</u> <u>30</u> <u>31</u> <u>32</u> <u>33</u> <u>34</u>
large	<u>11</u> <u>12</u> <u>13</u> <u>14</u> <u>15</u>	false	<u>35</u> <u>36</u> <u>37</u> <u>38</u>
quiet	<u>16</u> <u>17</u> <u>18</u> <u>19</u>		

" 14 5 6 7 35 20 7 15 17 36 23 24 5 18 8 28 17 23

1 9 35 20 2 16 14 24 5 18 3 20 7 13 8 35 2 10 23

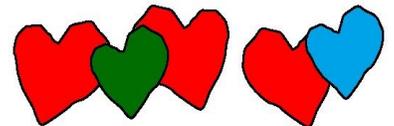
1 9 35 20 13 14 16 24 17 37 36 11 5 18 14 2 27 19

1 9 35 20 21 15 16 24 17 18 36 11 35 3 30 10 28 35 20

2 10 23 1 9 35 20 21 14 15 24 5 37 8 4 9 10 23 ;"

" 21 27 23 16 32 6 7 24 5 18 22 10 34 9 28 20 29 17 33

13 11 24 25 26 22 11 7 14 31 ."



Answer: warm; over; in; small; loud; hard; young; before; true; "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind;" and, "love your neighbor as yourself."

Pray For Our Missionaries

Please join us in praying for these individuals who have accepted Jesus' Lordship and are serving him in mission work.

Feb 1 – 8

Janet Brown
 Birthday: Feb 8

Janet and her family live in Gdansk, a port city on the Baltic seacoast with a population of 800,000. They are active in First Baptist, Gdansk and also lead a weekly English club for a new church plant called EXE. The club meets in a coffee shop and reaches out to young families and college students. They also spend time in Kartuzy, a city with strong Germanic cultural and Catholic spiritual roots. After 5 years working there, they have had just one new baptized believer. There is little interest in spiritual matters, but parents eager for their children to learn English with native speakers bring them to children's camps.

Janet asks for prayer for EXE church to reach many young adults with the gospel. Also pray God will open doors for a church plant in the city of Kartuzy and open hearts of people in that city to respond to the gospel.

Feb 9 – 15

Corey Chaplin
 Birthday: Feb 15

New England is the least reached, least religious region in the country and Bristol, Rhode Island is no different. In 2016, Mount Hope Church was planted in response to the lack of gospel-

centered churches in smaller, rural areas of New England. Corey and his wife, Jamie, joined Mount Hope Church in 2019. He assists the pastor by getting to know church members, expanding the teaching ministry at the church, and building relationships within the community.

Recently, Mount Hope Church sponsored a summer sports camp where they engaged 100 children and their families. Pray for the people in the community to whom the church is ministering, including volunteers they met through the camp. Pray, too, for God to strengthen the unity among members of Mount Hope Church.

Feb 16 - 22

James Bledsoe
 Birthday: Feb 22

Gospesele. That's the term James uses for the Christian jargon many in Kenya speak but do not understand. Some 80-85 percent of Kenyans call themselves "Christian," but for most, the true gospel has been muddled by prosperity teachings and animistic beliefs, James says. Such syncretism has been reinforced by the tendency to

evangelize by "easy beliefism" – the "pray this prayer after me" approach. When someone uses that approach, animists perceive him as a "Christian witch doctor" – a person who can manipulate spiritual circumstances around them. James and his colleagues, aided by seminary professors and pastors from the US, are training national pastors and church leaders in sound doctrine and evangelism practices to aid them in teaching people the true gospel message.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will help them and the people will respond to the gospel.

Feb 23 – 29

Hal Selby
 Birthday: Feb 29

Hal and his wife, Lisa, visit churches to testify how God set him free from same-sex attraction and restored their marriage. During his 27 year struggle with that attraction, he served as pastor of several churches and married Lisa. But in 1999, he realized he had never truly given his life to God. When he responded to what God showed him from the Bible, repented of his sin, and believed on Jesus to save him, Hal says he was born again and he and his marriage were healed from it. Now he leads Refuge 461 Ministries through which God has enabled he and Lisa to see God's life-transforming power freeing others who struggled with homosexuality.

Pray God will open the hearts and minds of those in homosexual lifestyles and that they find freedom in Christ.



A Community Outreach of

Roanoke
Baptist
Church

3950 Wyoming
Kansas City, MO 64111

*Happy
Valentine's
Day*

*Love is saying
"I'm sorry!" and
doing something
to show you
really mean it.*