
THE GOOD NEWS GAZETTE

THINK ON THESE THINGS...

PHILIPPIANS 4:8-9

LOVE IS ...

February, known for Valentine's Day, romance and love, brought to mind a few stories about love. When I was a girl, our newspaper published a small cartoon that always began with the title "LOVE IS ..." and had a comic picture with a definition below. I remember one in particular that said, "Love is ... a warm puppy." Maybe it is. Could be, but what is love really? Many today are confused by the term and societal 'norms' for what love means. Let's take a look at the pictures of real love.

In Silver Springs, Maryland, Arnold Harvey, a sanitation employee for Waste Management, saw a problem while picking up trash and discarded things on his 2 AM - 12 PM shift. Along Arnold's route, he saw the discards of society. In 2007, an increasing number of homeless people were sleeping in the streets. Using video to document the situation with his brother, William, Arnold asked his supervisor if there was anything the company could do to help. An army veteran and father of five, Arnold couldn't bear to sit down to eat a meal in his comfortable home knowing the needs of those homeless that he saw every day on his route.



Arnold began by collecting coats and blankets to distribute. Soon his wife, Theresa, was helping make and hand out sandwiches outside of the homeless shelter. Arnold also makes "love bags" that include food, toiletries and other items for the homeless. Those in need, loved his "love bags."

Over time, their mission and ministry led them to form God's Connection Transition (GCT). The name means "God connecting people together to undergo a change." Their Christian values guide their hearts and hands.

Arnold and Theresa's ministry, with the help of several corporate donations of surplus food, now serves 5000 families each month. They are a resource local for food pantries, shelters, church groups, and transitional living facilities. After his shift with Waste Management, Arnold's work continues in his service to the community and to the Lord. Love is ... serving our fellow man. (Matthew 25:34-40)

The church congregation I attend has a program called "love bears." Numerous people spend hours gathering the materials, cutting out patterns, sewing and stuffing colorful bears to take to the local hospitals. These stuffed "love bears" are given to children who are brought to the

emergency room or are admitted to the hospital. These little “love bears” are a tangible comfort to young children in our community during difficult situations and times of distress. Love is...“love bears” for sick children in our community. (Mark 10:13-16)

A few months ago, I sat by a young mother during church so that I could help her with her children. My husband was sitting elsewhere because of a task he was assigned to do during the service. After our initial greeting and getting settled, this young mother unexpectedly turned, looked at me and without saying anything gave me the biggest, warmest hug I have had in a long, long time. I wasn't feeling sad. We hadn't discussed any problems. I don't know what prompted her, but as she hugged me I realized how very much I needed that hug. Freely given and genuine, her hug said, “I love you.” “I care about you.” and “You are special to me.” It brought tears to my eyes and a rush of thankfulness that made my heart ache and swell in the beauty of her gesture. That hug made my day. Brief and impromptu, with a gift that cost nothing, I reaped huge dividends from a hug on that day and in the memory of it for weeks and months to come. First John chapter four verses seven and eight says, “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” Love is ... a warm hug from a sister in Christ.

My last story about love can be found in verses nine through twelve of First John chapter four. The Bible says, “This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.” That's what

love is. God's love is made complete when we accept Christ's sacrifice for sin (Acts 2:36-41), and we love others like he loves us. Love is ... God.

In Matthew 22:34-40, an expert in the Law tested Jesus with this question. He asked him which is the greatest commandment in the Law. “Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

These verses are not suggestions for the people of God. They are commands, and I must challenge and ask myself daily — Is everything I do motivated by these two greatest commands? Am I the picture of love to others? Do people see God in me? What do I need to change to be more loving?

As Jesus prepared his disciples for his earthly departure, he said in John 13:34-35 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” Jesus clearly says that Christians, disciples of Christ, will be known by their love. Is this what the world sees in Christians? Is it what they see in you? in me? Love is...acting like our Father. God is... love.

Let us think on these things.....

by:
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What Does the Bible Say?

What did John hear about Jesus when he was in prison?

What did John send his disciples to find out from Jesus?

What did Jesus preach to the poor?

What did Jesus say about John to the crowd?

What was John's purpose?

Who is greater than John the Baptist?

Who was the Elijah who was to come?

To what did Jesus compare his generation?

What did people say John had?

Of what was The Son of Man accused?

Why did Jesus denounce cities in which he had performed most of his miracles?

What were two of the cities?

What did Jesus say of Capernaum?

What did Jesus praise the Father about?

The Father is Lord of what two things?

Who is the only one that knows the Son?

Who is the only one that knows the Father?

Who does Jesus ask to come unto him?

What does Jesus promise to those that come to him?



Who is gentle and humble of heart?

What will those who come to Jesus find?

What does "my yoke is easy and my burden is light" mean?

Answers to these questions can be found in Matthew chapter eleven.

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The Definition & Characteristics of Love as Found in I Corinthians 13

Love is patient.
Love is kind.
Love does not envy.
Love does not boast.
Love is not proud.
Love is not rude.
Love is not self-seeking.
Love is not easily angered.

Love keeps no record of wrongs.
Love does not delight in evil.
Love rejoices with the truth.
Love always protects.
Love always trusts.
Love always hopes.
Love always perseveres.
Love never fails.

Memory Verse

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.”

Hebrews 10:24



May you fully
bloom in God's
garden!