

## Love

- In what way does society dictate to us how we show others we love them and the depth of our love?
- We show how much we love someone by buying them extravagant gifts. (cars, diamonds, etc.)
- How do we show someone we love them?
- What is the best way we can show someone our love?
- The five love languages by Gary Chapman.
- **Words of Affirmation**
- If your spouse's primary love language is words of affirmation, your spoken praise and appreciation will fall like rain on parched soil. Before long, you will see new life sprouting in your marriage as your spouse responds to your words of love.
- **Acts of Service**
- Do you remember the old saying, "Actions speak louder than words"? For some people, that is particularly true of love. If acts of service are your spouse's primary love language, nothing will speak more deeply to him or her emotionally than simple acts of service.
- **Receiving Gifts**
- In every society throughout human history, gift giving has been perceived as an expression of love. Giving gifts is universal, because there is something inside the human psyche that says if you love someone, you will give to him or her.
- **Quality Time**
- If your spouse's love language is quality time, giving him or her your undivided attention is one of the best ways you can show your love. Some men pride themselves on being able to watch television, read a magazine, and listen to their wives, all at the same time. That is an admirable trait, but it is not speaking the love language of quality time.
- **Physical Touch**
- We have long known the emotional power of physical touch. That's why we pick up babies and touch them tenderly. Long before an infant understands the meaning of the word love, he or she feels loved by physical touch.
- These languages of love are ways we like to have others show us they love us and the way we show love to others.
- We see there are different ways to express our love to others
- If there are different ways to express love, then why during Christmas we allow society or businesses to dictate to us how we express love?

- There are some pure expressions of love that I have personally seen this season.
- The first is a story that happened on Friday. I was doing my Friday routine of the weekly grocery shopping. I got to talk with an older gentleman and during that conversation we talked about how we hoped we didn't forget anything. He shared that he got the ice cream. His wife had a stroke and she loved to have ice cream every evening. He was her care taker and he showed his love by making sure she had her ice cream.
- The next story is about a young woman with children. She is struggling financially and is trying to stretch her money so she can give something to her kids. Her kids tell her we understand and mom is struggling to provide. You see the father is not paying child support and she is sacrificing to provide just the little things. Providing shampoo is almost a luxury.
- These are just two stories of love that is expressed not just at Christmas time but all year long.
- God showed us His love over two thousand years ago. That day when Jesus was born in a stable. That day when God took on human form to show all of mankind His love for them.
- It wasn't a fancy present but, one that came in humility.
- Jesus lived that life of love among those in Israel and showed people what it was to love without condition.
- His feelings of love were expressed over and over. Remember the scripture just before Jesus entered into Jerusalem? **Luke 13: 34 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God's messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn't let me.**
- Jesus came as part of God's plan of redemption. Jesus came to show us how much God loves us.
- God gave a message to Isaiah; **6 A voice said, "Shout!" I asked, "What should I shout?" "Shout that people are like the grass. Their beauty fades as quickly as the flowers in a field. 7 The grass withers and the flowers fade beneath the breath of the LORD. And so it is with people.**
- Think of our position in life. We are all temporary. Our beauty fades in time. Compared to God who is eternal. Time has no effect on God. God doesn't grow old or tired. God is the same for all eternity.
- Why do we deserve the love that God has shown us?
- I'm glad we don't have to answer that question. The fact is that God loves us. He loves us even though we don't deserve it. He loves us despite our sin and our rebellion against Him.
- He loves those that hate Him.

- **” 9 O Zion, messenger of good news, shout from the mountaintops! Shout it louder, O Jerusalem. Shout, and do not be afraid. Tell the towns of Judah, “Your God is coming!”  
10 Yes, the Sovereign LORD is coming in power. He will rule with a powerful arm. See, he brings his reward with him as he comes. 11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young.**
- Hear those words because they are for us! Jesus is coming in power!
- He is coming to take care of us like a shepherd takes care of his flock.
- He will hold us close to His heart.
- His love continued past the manger.
- His love took Him to the cross.
- His love will bring Him back again to establish His reign of love on this Earth.
- We need to shout about His love for us and the world.
- Remember the movie ELF? There is a scene where the main character Buddy bursts into to a conference room saying I’m in love I’m love and I don’t care who knows it.
- Are we that much in love we Jesus?
- Do we tell others about our love for Him? Do we tell others about the love He has for us?