

LOVE IS....

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.
Love never fails. ***1 Corinthians 13:4-8***

This passage in Corinthians gives us a really good description of love. Love is an amazing subject that has fascinated man since the beginning of time.

The bible speaks on the subject of love nearly 700 times. The subjects range from God's love for man, man's love for God, and man's love for his fellow man. This shows us how important it is to God that our understanding of love is complete.

Volumes of books have been written, scores of songs have been composed, and thousands of movies have been made all with their central theme of love.

With all this information and creative thought devoted to the subject, we really should have a pretty good grasp on the subject of love but we do not. Why not? Love is emotional. Far too often, we take everything that we know about love, everything that we have learned, everything that is logical and completely ignore it because of our emotions.

I have been married to the love of my life for 24 years. One piece of advice that I give to young couples thinking of marriage is the following;

I consider myself a very happily married man. I enjoy being married and I never want to think of not being married. Most days are great. Some days are good. Unfortunately, a few days are awful. I am having a bad day or she is having a bad day, or for whatever reason, it is a really bad day for both of us. Those are the days that determine whether you have a successful marriage. Those are the days that your love for each other carries you through.

I am blessed that I have people in my life that have taught me about love. Along with God's word, my family and friends have shown me many examples of what love looks like and have helped me to grow and be a better Christian, husband, and friend. Here are some of the things that I have learned;

Love is letting your child fall when they are learning to walk because you realize that is how they learn.

Love is letting your child make their own choices when they are older, even though you know what is best, but you realize that is how they learn.

Love is telling a friend that they are wrong and they need to change when they are turning against God will.

Love is knowing when to talk, when to listen, and always to pray.

Love is setting your alarm for 1:00 AM to make sure your son is home, 3:00 AM to wake your husband up for work, and for 6:00 AM to get your daughter off to school.

Love is being more concerned about your loved one's happiness than your own.

Love is taking over household responsibilities when spouse's health may have deteriorated.

Love is always wanting your loved one with you but letting them have time away from you.

Love is the pride that you feel in the achievements of others. It is a far greater pride than in your own accomplishments.

Love is laughing and crying, happiness and sadness, success and failure, praising and correcting, and remembering and forgetting.

I recently found a quote that sums things up pretty well;

Love doesn't make the world go 'round; love is what makes the ride worthwhile. -FRANKLIN P. JONES

Jeff