



GOOD NEWS GUIDE

THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE

February, 2016

Wise Words about Love

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

February ... Valentine's Day ... it's a good time to talk about **LOVE**. I have written before about loving God and loving your neighbor. Today I want to talk with you about how to love your spouse. I'll be talking to husbands about loving their wives, but you sisters don't throw this up to your husband and say, "See, this is how you ought to treat me!" Instead, take the ideas and apply them to yourselves. They generally cut both ways.



Some of you who read this are in jail or prison, and can't use these principles today. That's okay—just remember them, or keep the newsletter for future reference. This is important stuff!

(First a word to any of you who think it's okay for a man and woman to live together and sleep together without being married. It is not okay. God says it's wrong. Don't do it. If you were living that way before you went inside, make a commitment not to do it when you get out. Do it God's way. It is so much better than the world's way.)

Some clinical psychologists asked a group of 4 to 8 year olds, "What does love mean?" The answers those kids gave were wise beyond their years. I'll use some of those wise words to illustrate things you men should know about how to love your wives.

Try a little tenderness:

"When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love."
(Rebecca, age 8)

One of the best ways to show you love your wife is to do something for her that you don't have to do, and ordinarily wouldn't do. It says you really care, and you want to serve her and please her.



The word "husband" means caretaker. Take care of your wife.

Give unselfishly to please her:

"Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your french fries without making them give you any of theirs."
(Chrissy, age 6)

When we were dating I delighted to share my fries, or anything else, with my girl. After a lot of years of marriage I sometimes find myself wishing she would get her own. It's natural, because we are selfish creatures by nature. But love is unselfishness.

Honor your spouse with your speech:

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You know that your name is safe in their mouth." (Billy, age 4)

The quickest way to damage a relationship is to speak negatively about your spouse. Don't talk trash to your wife, or about her. Honor her with what you say. Let your words bless her and build up her confidence in you as her lover and protector.

Take delight in being together:

"Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other." (Karl, age 5)

If you love her, show her that you delight in her. You don't need to point out that she has gained a few pounds; she knows that. Instead, let her know that you find her irresistible. And do your best to be irresistible too.

Be thoughtful and considerate:

"Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is okay." (Danny, age 7)

What a picture of being considerate! Another is this: crawling into a cold bed, I sometimes go and warm up her side, because she has a hard time getting warm if the bed's cold. I'm sure you can think of thoughtful things you can do for your spouse. Work on it.

Show your love all the time:

“Love is what’s in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen.”

(Bobby, age 8)

What is your home like? Is there a holy peace prevailing there? Or is there strife? Do you get along with each other, or do you fight like cats and dogs? Be a bringer of peace.

Show affection often:

“Love is when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be together and you talk more. My mommy and daddy are like that. They look gross when they kiss.” (Emily, age 8)

One of the best ways husbands and wives communicate is non-verbally, through touching, kissing, and hugging. A tender touch says “I love you” without needing words. A kiss says “I trust you and value our relationship.” Base your physical relationship on total mutual enjoyment of being together, not just on having sex.

Be there for each other; be supportive:

“During my piano recital, I was on a stage and scared. I looked at all the people watching me and saw my daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that. I wasn’t scared anymore.” (Cindy, age 8)

Can your loved ones count on you to be there for them? Can they count on your love, whether they perform beautifully or miserably? Don’t let your love be a sometime thing, and above all don’t make it depend on performance. God loves you, no matter what you do. Love your family the same way.

Love intentionally and unconditionally:

“Love is when mommy sees daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford.” (Chris, age 8)

Obviously nobody can be good looking and sweet smelling all the time. When you love someone, you have to look beyond the outward appearance and see the one you love. Likewise, when sickness comes, or financial trouble, or painful disaster, true love will still strongly say, “You are the one I love!”

Forgive and forget offenses:

“Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day.”

(Mary Ann, age 4)

We can learn a lot about love from observing dogs. A dog doesn’t need to understand what’s going on.

It will always be glad to see you. It will always ignore your faults and forgive your minor offenses. And it will defend you to the death if necessary.

Build relationship with your words:

“You really shouldn’t say ‘I love you’ unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget.” (Jessica, age 8)

I think I can’t really add to that statement. Way to go, Jessica!

What does the Bible say?

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. (John 15:12-13)

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. (1 John 4:7)

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ... (Ephesians 5:25)

He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord. (Proverbs 18:22)

An excellent wife ... is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. (Proverbs 31:10-12)

... Rejoice in the wife of your youth ... let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love. (Proverbs 5:18-19)

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered. (1 Peter 3:7)

And, finally,

Love your neighbor as yourself. (Matthew 22:39)

Your wife is your closest neighbor. Love her with whole-hearted, unselfish devotion, and you will not only please God, you will bring His blessings of peace and joy into your marriage.

Blessings, now and always—

Brother Roland

Apples

A few years ago a group of salesmen went to a regional sales convention in Chicago. They had assured their wives that they would be home in plenty of time for Friday night's dinner. In their rush to catch the plane home and with tickets and briefcases, one of these salesmen inadvertently kicked over a table which held a display of apples. Apples flew everywhere. Without stopping or looking back, they all managed to reach the plane in time for their nearly-missed boarding ...

ALL BUT ONE!!! He paused, took a deep breath, got in touch with his feelings and experienced a twinge of compassion for the girl whose apple stand had been overturned.

He told his buddies to go on without him, waved good-bye, asked one of them to call his wife when they arrived at their home destination and explain his taking a later flight. Then he returned to the place in the terminal where the apples were all over the terminal floor.

He was glad he did. The 16-year-old girl was totally blind! She was softly crying, tears running down her cheeks in frustration, and at the same time helplessly groping for her spilled produce as the crowd swirled about her; no one stopping and no one to care for her plight.

The salesman knelt on the floor with her, gathered up the apples, put them back on the table and helped organize her display. As he did this, he noticed that many of them had become battered and bruised; these he set aside in another basket.

When he had finished, he pulled out his wallet and said to the girl, "Here, please take this \$50 for the damage we did. Are you okay?" She nodded through her tears. He continued on with, "I hope we didn't spoil your day too badly."

As the salesman started to walk away, the bewildered blind girl called out to him, "Mister...?" He paused and turned to look back into those blind eyes. She continued, "Are you Jesus?"

He stopped in mid-stride and he thought for a moment ... He gently went back and said, "No, I am nothing like Jesus. He is good, kind, caring, loving, and would never have bumped into your display in the first place."

The girl gently nodded: "I only asked because I prayed for Jesus to help me gather the apples. He sent you to help me, Thank you for hearing Jesus, Mister."

As he slowly he made his way to catch the later flight with that question burning and bouncing about in his soul: "Are you Jesus?"

Do people mistake you for Jesus?

That's our destiny, is it not? To be so much like Jesus that people cannot tell the difference as we live and interact with a world that is blind to His love, life and grace.

If we claim to know Him, we should live, walk and act as He would. Knowing Him is more than simply quoting scripture and going to church. It's actually living the Word as life unfolds day to day.

You are the apple of His eye even though you, too, have been bruised by a fall. He stopped what He was doing and picked up you and me on a hill called Calvary and paid in full for our damaged fruit.

Sometimes we just take things for granted, when we really need to be sharing what we know....Thanks for caring, and choosing to make a difference in one person's life today.

The nicest place to be is in someone's thoughts; the safest place to be is in someone's prayers, and the very best place to be is ... in the hands of God

What Love Is

Here's all you need to know about love: it's the opposite of selfishness. When you are being the unselfish person God created you to be, you are loving your neighbor. Enjoy!

Puzzle:

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Words:

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GIVING
HELPFUL
HONEST
JOYFUL
KIND
LIFTING
LOYAL
PATIENT
PEACEFUL

PERSONAL
PLEASANT
REASSURING
STRENGTHENING
SUPPORTIVE
SYMPATHETIC
TENDER
THOUGHTFUL
TRUTHFUL
UNDERSTANDING
UNSELFISH
UPLIFTING
WARM