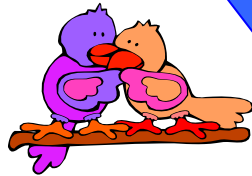


What is
LOVE?

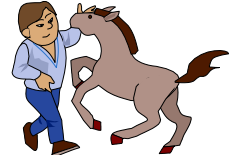


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The Bible says that God is LOVE. This desirable thought, followed by action, comes from God Himself.

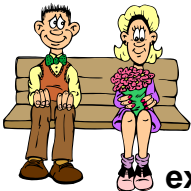


There is love between humans and humans, humans and animals, and even humans and plants, but the love of humans for inanimate things like possessions and food is not a God-created love.



The Bible has an amazing definition for the love that God has. 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 in the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

Just like the blue hearts on the cover, love grows in strength and intensity. When we have a new relationship we begin cautiously. Perhaps we have been let down in the past or we just want to weigh things up. Even a new relationship with an animal is like this.



But as trust grows, so does a relationship. Perhaps when you are young you are ready to trust right away, but older people will tell you to take it slowly because they have often had bad experiences.

God is quite different. He just loves us, whether we have let Him down or not. So many people think that God is angry and will punish every little mistake we make, so they do not even want to know Him.

There is another amazing fact about God's love. He wants to pour His love into our hearts. The Bible says - God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us. (Romans 5:5) **The reason He wants to do this is that He has chosen to demonstrate His love for us through sending His own Son, Jesus, to die for the ungodly, sinners.** While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

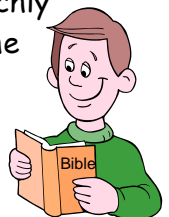
The mushy stuff we see in movies and sit-coms is not the love that God loves. The Bible actually calls it lust and this so-called love is destructive. It is impatient, not kind but selfish. It causes envy and discontentment, and inflated egos. When others do not meet our expectations it causes anger and resentment. When someone has let us down we are glad if they get hurt – it serves them right, we say. All this behaviour might be considered entertainment but actually it is undermining our purity.



In the Bible Paul has some very good advice. Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things...and put them into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4:8&9)



It is very simple to receive God's love, because Jesus has already made the way. The Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on Him, for everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord will be saved. (Romans 10:12&13)



Calling on the Lord is opening our hearts to receive God's love in a personal way.

The geometric design of a heart is interesting. It looks like part of a body from the breasts to the hips, behind which are our vital reproductive organs.



Jesus said a very strange and challenging thing.

If anyone is thirsty, let him/her come to Me and drink.

Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, streams of

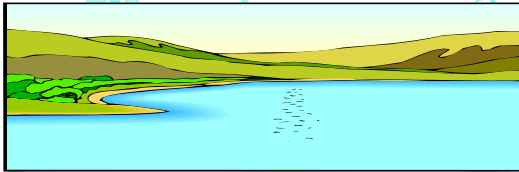
living water will flow from within him/her. **John adds**

- By this He meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were later to receive...after Jesus was glorified (ascended into Heaven).



This is a prayer we can use to call out to God.

I turn away from my sin and turn to You, God. I believe that Jesus died for me on the Cross so that my ignorance of You and Your ways is forgiven. I confess that Jesus is alive in Heaven because You raised Him from death to live forever. I want Jesus to be my Lord and to receive Your love into my heart. (Romans 10:8-11)



The Bible says – He (God) is wooing you from the jaws of distress to a spacious place free from restriction, to the comfort of your table laden with choice food. (Job 36:16) **And Jesus adds** – man does not live by bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. (Matthew 4:4)

This is LOVE