

6) Love . . . Is Both _____ and _____.

John 8:1-11

My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline,
and do not resent his rebuke,
because the LORD disciplines those he loves,
as a father the son he delights in.

(Proverbs 3:11-12)

"Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

(John 8:10-11)

This is very important: acceptance is not the same thing as tolerating any behavior she chooses to indulge in. (John Ortberg, *Everybody's Normal Till You Get To Know Them*)

7) Love . . . Is _____.

Luke 10:25-37

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence.

(1 John 3:16-19)

He [Jesus] commands, "As you love yourself, so love your neighbor. Which means: As you long for food when you are hungry, so long to feed your neighbor when he is hungry. As you long for nice clothes for yourself, so long for nice clothes for your neighbor. As you desire to have a comfortable place to live, so desire a comfortable place to live for your neighbor. As you seek to be safe and secure from calamity and violence, so seek comfort and security for your neighbor. As you seek friends for yourself, so be a friend to your neighbor. As you want your life to count and be significant, so desire that same significance for your neighbor. As you work to make good grades yourself, so work to help your neighbor make good grades. As you like to be welcomed into strange company, so welcome your neighbor into strange company. As you would that men would do to you, do so to them. In other words, make the measure of your self-seeking the measure of your self-giving.

(John Piper, *Desiring God*)

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True Love*What's It Look Like?***The Story****Loving People***Doing Relationships A Whole New Way*

All passages, unless otherwise noted, are from the New International Version of the Bible.

You can download the free YouVersion Bible app that includes the NIV translation at your favorite app store.

True Love

What's It Look Like?

1) Love Is ... _____ Someone's

_____.

Love as the Bible defines it is a stance of working for the best of another person.
(Henry Cloud & John Townsend, *Boundaries In Dating*)

Love is ... a steady wish for the loved person's ultimate good as far as it can be obtained.
(C.S. Lewis, *Answers To Questions On Christianity*)

What exactly is love? It is *the will to good* or "bene-volence." We love something or someone when we promote its good for its own sake.
(Dallas Willard, *Renovation Of The Heart*)

2) Love Is ... _____ Than A _____.

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. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

Love *is* behavior. To love is to act. Anything short of action is not love at all. (Dr. Gordon Fee)

3) Love Is ... Not _____ Than A _____.

Love must be sincere. ... Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. (Romans 12:9-10)

If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. (1 Corinthians 13:3)

One thing is for sure: Love cannot be equated with sacrificial action! It cannot be equated with any action! This is a powerful antidote to the common teaching that love is not what you feel but what you do. ... YES, love is more than feelings; but, NO, love is not less than feelings. (John Piper, *Desiring God*)

4) Love Is ... _____.

This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are. ... We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. (1 John 3:10, 14)

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. (1 John 4:7-8)

The fruit of the Spirit is love. (Galatians 5:22)

Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. ... Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more. (1 Thessalonians 4:9-10)

5) Love ... _____ As We _____.

The rule for us is perfectly simple. Do not waste time bothering whether you "love" your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him. If you injure someone you dislike, you will find yourself disliking him more. If you do him a good turn, you will find yourself disliking him less. (C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*)

I strongly believe that loving behavior creates love feelings—more than the other way around. When a husband says to me, "I don't feel that I'm in love with my wife anymore," I usually ask: "When did you last behave toward her as if you loved her?" I then request that the husband begin to act lovingly and see what happens. Frequently I see something remarkable happen. The husband reports that he feels better toward her. As soon as partners start behaving toward each other as if they are still in love, they begin to report that the feeling of love comes back. When they start being kind, patient, tolerant, unprovoking, and "loving", they feel their love again. ... Prove this quite easily for yourself. ... Find someone you don't love and started treating him or her as if you do. Very soon (it's almost alarming how quickly) you will begin to see your respect building and the feeling of love will emerge. (Dr. Archibald D. Hart, *Unlocking The Mystery Of Your Emotions*)