

What is love?

A tragedy of modern life is that true love is either misrepresented, or it is totally absent on a widespread scale.

For example, Hollywood movies, modern novels and popular songs can give a distorted view of what love is all about. On the other hand, entire nations or ethnic groups are right now expressing fierce hatred for their neighbours.

So what is love?

Love is nothing more nor less than unselfishly putting the other person first, and that's hard work. It's not something we just "fall" into.

God's love for a sinful world illustrates this. His love for us was not merely a warm, fuzzy feeling. It was a deliberate, calculated action on his part. At enormous cost, God went out of his way to reach out to us in sacrificial love.

And the Bible's emphatic message is that "we should love one another." 1 John 3.11. But how do we do this?

(1) Care for one another. 1 Corinthians 12.25,26. (2) Forgive one another. Ephesians 4.32. (3) Serve one another. Galatians 5.13. (4) Encourage one another. Hebrews 3.13. (5) Build up one another. 1 Thessalonians 5.11. (6) Be kind to one another. Ephesians 4.32.

That's for a start! Then look up the Bible's other "one another" references.

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Christians may not see eye to eye, but they can walk arm in arm.

Ken Packer