

BLOG #28 – “I Love You” REALLY? - February 14, 2018

“LOVE is...”

Happy Valentines Day to all who love!

Why do we need an official holiday to tell us when to express love to our spouse, family, or friends? Does this holiday say, “***I love you***”? Does “*I love you*” even mean anything anymore?

LOVE: is this an overused term today? Agape, phileo, eros- what’s it gonna be? Ooey-gooney love? Tough love? Syrupy love? Puppy love? Friendship love? True love? Undying love? A mother’s love?

When someone says, “*I love you*”, can you trust it? Or is it just a cliché, something someone says out of obligation? When someone says, “*I love you*”, we often think, “*Yeah, right! What do you really want?*” What are the strings attached to these words? What do they expect from me? Is there such a thing as PURE love? A love with NO STRINGS ATTACHED? How can we ever be sure if someone really means it when they say these words? Can we risk opening our hearts and being vulnerable?

God has a lot to say about love, and it seems extravagant and incredible, almost too good to be true. “*Love is patient, love is kind... love never fails*”; “*MY love for you knows no limit*”; “*For God SO loved the world that He gave His only begotten son*”; “*love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength; and love your neighbor as yourself.*”; “*That you might know how wide, how long, how high, how deep is the love of God...*”; “*Jesus love me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so*”; “*Above all other virtues, put on love, which binds them all together*”; “*God is love; Whoever lives in love, lives in God, and He in them*”: “*Love covers a multitude of sins*”; “*There is no greater love than this, that a man would lay down his life for another*”

There are many ways it talks about love without even using the word, such as:

“*My thoughts about you are more than sands of the seashore...*” Ps 139

“*For the joy set before Him, Christ endured the cross*” – Hebrews 12

Love is ACTION! Love is SACRIFICE! Love is A CHOICE! Love is a GIFT! Love is COSTLY! Love is Confusing! Love HURTS! Love is EMOTION! Love is an ATTITUDE! Love is a PERSON!

Love is invisible like the wind, but its’ power is mightier than any other force. One can have the faith to raise someone from the dead, but without love it is nothing.

If God is love, then why does He allow so much suffering? This question has been asked by almost every living soul. Why such pain? Is that the message of His love? Many of us have

heard the line, *"it is better to have loved and lost than to have never loved at all."* When our hearts are broken from a betrayed love, how do we cope with it? When someone we love dies, what happens to the love that was there? It seems so confusing and impossible. What about the Cross of Christ? Is it a symbol of love? Or is it just a symbol of pain and loss?

Our hearts long for love the way our lungs long for every single breath. Without it, our lives mean nothing. Without it, no amount of success or money or anything has any value. Without love, death itself seems attractive! Where can we find this love? How do we access this powerful spirit? How do we even know if it is real? Or whether it can be trusted? How many books have been written about love, or with love as a key ingredient? Would we have any of the millions of Romantic novels that have been written? And are not tragedies filled with love or the loss of love? Is not love the core of any story line?

When I say *"I love you"* to my wife, what am I trying to convey? When I say these words to my brother at church, what do I want him to know? What is the heart message I want them to receive? Is it, *"You are important to me, You are special, I care about you, I value you, You mean more to me than anything, I need you, I adore you, etc."*? OR, Is it just because you like something they did? How often do we hear these words on shows like the Voice, when the coaches say, *"I love You."* What they are really saying is, *"I love your talent and I want it for myself."*

Pure love, extravagant love, tender love, sacrificial love, love that lasts, are they a myth? Are they worth seeking out? Are they worth investing in? Are they worth giving everything for? I hope so! I hope the love I give and the love I receive will be all of these. If I am tapped into the true Vine, will this not be the fruit of my connection with the source of all love? *"I love because HE first loved us."* (1 John 4:19)

My heart feels and embraces this love; and my prayer would be that my life would be remembered for how I loved deeply.

"I love you!", and I mean it!! I hope your heart receives the message and takes it in!

(See Graham Cooke's YouTube, "LOVE ENCOUNTER": <https://youtu.be/Y6wIClByBG8>)

If you want to know more about us, check out our website: HisHeartministers.com

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Blessings, Brian