

Did you know . . .

Love

February is the month of Love...a time for Valentine's Day, remembering love and emphasizing the importance of Love in our lives.

Although Love is a basic human emotion, it is difficult to define. The Greeks use three forms of the word to describe Love:

- Eros, the word for sexual attraction or lust.
- Phileo, the love one feels for a relative or close friend ("brotherly love")
- Agapao, "True Love", to treat with affection, caress, be fond of. It reflects the actions associated with the urgency and passion of Eros as well as the caring of Phileo.

Love means to be deeply committed and connected to someone or something. It is a bond that two people share.

The use of this one little word, Love, has the power to lift our spirits or send us into the depths of despair. This word has such an enormous impact on our lives.

Love is mentioned many times in the Bible, depending on the Bible version. In the New American Standard version, Love is mentioned 348 times; 133 in the Old Testament and 215 times in the New Testament.

Love is heavily rooted in the character of God. Because God loved us first, we can love others and we can show it through our actions.

It has been said that Love is "pure, painful, sweet and dreadful" all at once. Love is a basic necessity in everyone's life. Love is necessary for one to live a proper and healthy life. Ask someone what they want out of life and their response usually comes down to this four-letter word: to Love and be loved in return.

Consider the following...

"Nothing is sweeter than Love...nothing higher, nothing stronger, nothing larger, nothing more joyful, nothing fuller, nothing better in heaven or on earth. For Love is born of God and can find its rest only in God above all he has created." [Thomas à Kempis , The Imitation of Christ].

"To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek Him the greatest adventure; to find Him, the greatest human achievement." [St. Augustine of Hippo]

And of course, the Prayer of Love from 1 Corinthians 13, known as the Love Chapter which reminds us of what real Love looks like, and what it doesn't look like.

"Love never fails...So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love." [1 Corinthians 13:8]

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