

@ctivated

CHANGE YOUR LIFE. CHANGE YOUR WORLD.



REAL LOVE

How to find it, how to give it, how to keep it

THE ARENA

Love or sword, which is stronger?

IT HAPPENED TO ME

Friendship, marriage, children, travels, lessons—love and happiness!

For a wide range of books and audio and video productions to feed your soul, lift your spirit, strengthen your family, and provide fun learning times for your children, please contact one of our distributors below, or visit our Web site at www.auroraproduction.com.

Activated Ministries
P.O. Box 462805
Escondido, CA 92046-2805
USA

activatedUSA@activated.org
(1-877) 862-3228 (toll-free)

Activated Africa/Europe
Bramingham Pk. Business Ctr.
Enterprise Way
Luton, Beds. LU3 4BU
England

activatedEurope@activated.org
(07801) 442-317

Activated India
P.O. Box 5215
G.P.O.
Bangalore - 560 001
India

activatedIndia@activated.org

VISIT US AT
www.activated.org

EDITOR
Keith Phillips

DESIGN
Giselle LeFavre

ILLUSTRATIONS
Etienne Morel

PRODUCTION
Francisco Lopez

VOL 3, ISSUE 2
© 2002 Aurora Production, AG
All Rights Reserved
Printed in Thailand

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations in *Activated* are from the New King James Version of the Bible © 1982 Thomas Nelson, Inc.

personally speaking



This issue of *Activated* is on the all-time favorite subjects of love and romance. Why say more about those, you may wonder, when already they're everywhere, from movies, romance novels and music to self-help books, magazines, and Internet sites galore. What more needs to be said? Indeed, what more *can* be said? We hope to cover these subjects from a different angle—one that you may have never considered.

Some years ago there was a popular song, "What the World Needs Now Is Love." It went on to say that there was plenty of just about everything else—mountains, hillsides, oceans, rivers, and so on—but that there never seemed to be enough love in the world. It was an ostensibly sweet and idealistic song, but the implication, at least to me, was that God was at fault for not having created enough love. That's sad, because it's simply not true. "God is love" (1 John 4:8). He is both the very essence of love and the Creator of love in all its wonderful forms. And since God fills the earth, the universe, and Heaven itself, there's always plenty of love to go around. In other words, the problem is not with Him.

The hitch is that when most people seek love, especially romantic love, they fail to include Him. Perhaps they think He's too holy or too busy running the universe to involve Himself with such petty and carnal matters as the emotional needs of His creations. And so they try to muddle through, when in fact He *wants* to be involved and His help is right there for the asking.

So if you're looking to give and receive *real* love, go to the Source. He's got all the advice, answers, and love you need.

Keith Phillips
For the *Activated* family



THE VALENTINE

A true story as told by Nyx Martinez

TREASURE

HISTORY BOOKS TELL US that during the Feast of Lupercalia, an event that evolved into the celebration known as Valentine's Day, it was the custom for Roman youths to cast lots for a girl to bestow gifts on and court the following year. Today such a random way of selecting a sweetheart has been abandoned. Instead, on February 14th, lovers in many countries give cards and gifts to express their love to the ones they have romantic feelings for.

When I think of Valentine's Day, one love story in particular comes to mind. It began five years ago.

The gift is highly unusual, Ericka thought with a smile. Neither Chris nor Ericka were particularly religious, so she didn't quite know what had led her to this gift idea. But as she held the pen to inscribe a dedication inside the front cover of the book, she somehow knew in her heart that this Bible would be the very best gift she could give the person she truly loved.

Not your ordinary valentine gift, but it's sealed and given with love, she wrote.

Chris was somewhat taken aback by Ericka's gift. After all, he was a man who had hardly set foot inside a church and regarded Christianity as just another religion.

A couple of years passed. The Bible sat unused on a shelf, while the couple's relationship went from shaky to crumbling to hopeless.

But it was during this crisis that the book somehow caught Chris' attention. Opening it and reading random passages, he discovered the missing link in his relationship with Ericka. Why had he not seen it before? There it was, so simple, so clear, so profound. "God is love" (1 John 4:8). Verse after verse and day after day Chris studied the Bible, until at last he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Friend and Savior.

Ericka was surprised when Chris seemed to become addicted to this book. Together, they discovered more hidden treasures that had been there all along. Jesus' love was binding them closer to each other, helping them to overcome their past mistakes, and teaching them to open their hearts to each other as never before.

That Bible has been Chris and Ericka's source of strength and love, and whenever their relationship seems to thin out again, Chris remembers that day when God gave him a sign through that gift of love.

The reason this story comes to my mind is because Valentine's Day is almost here again. Last year on Valentine's Day my two friends, Chris and Ericka, gave each other another very special gift: They got married.♥





REAL

By David Brandt Berg

LOVE

how to

find it

how to

give it

how to

keep it

Love and happiness are like perfume: You cannot pour them on others without getting a few drops on yourself.

TO BE GENUINE AND LASTING, love must be based on a more enduring foundation than mere physical attraction or fleshly gratification. It must include an unselfish desire to protect and help and make someone else happy. It must also involve admiration for the other person's finer qualities. A man or woman can be in love with their partner's mind, sentiments, spiritual reactions, and companionship—all of which have little or nothing to do with physical beauty. Real love is a spiritual thing; it's not merely physical. It's mostly manifested in spiritual and mental companionship and compatibility, the likes and dislikes and habits that the two have in common.

Even the things the man and woman don't have in common can sometimes be

interesting and amusing. Take my wife's interest in clothing, for example. I enjoy her little fashion shows because I know she enjoys doing that and does it to please me. As for myself, clothes have never been of any particular importance to me as long as I look clean and neat. I'm more interested in people. I often couldn't have told you five minutes later what someone I had just met was wearing, but I might have been able to tell you what they were thinking and what their character was like because I may have looked closely and deeply into their heart.

As a young man seeking a wife, my mother once told me not to put the physical features first in my quest, but to seek something more in a woman than that. Most of all seek that indefinable thing called personality. Seek the liveliness of the spirit, the fascination of the mind, the irresistibility of the heart, the magnanimity of the soul—that spiritual part that, in turn, can only be satisfied by the spiritual in you. The things of this earth can satisfy your body, but God has made you so that your spirit can only be satisfied by the things of the spirit.

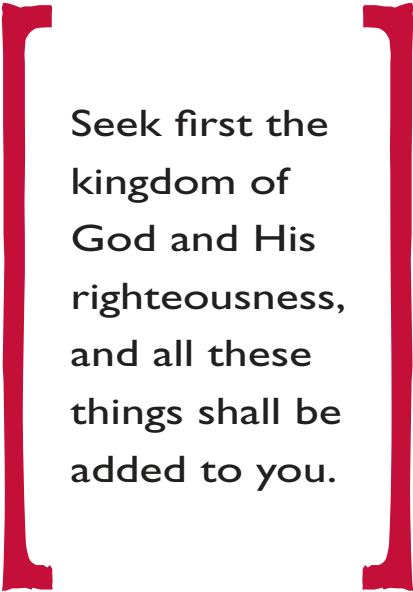
God's Word tells us, "Do not love the world or the things in the world ... the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. The world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever" (1 John 2:15–17). "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:2, KJV). "For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18).

God didn't say you wouldn't or shouldn't need or desire or enjoy the things of this life, but He admonishes you not to have an inordinate love for

them to the point that you put these things before the even greater needs of your spirit.

If you love the material world more than the spiritual, then it becomes a form of worship of the creation more than the Creator, and God and His spiritual world refuse to take second place in your affections or life. He says, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37–39). "You shall have no other gods before Me. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God" (Exodus 20:3,5). "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things [your necessities] shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). But then if you do that, He's happy to give you "all these things," including the desires of your heart, as long as you delight yourself in Him (Psalm 37:4).

He's always given me not only everything that I've needed according to His riches in glory (Philippians 4:19), but also everything I've wanted as long as it was good for me, including good health, a safe and comfortable place to live, enough to eat, sufficient rest, enjoyable exercise, pleasant sights and sounds, and lots of affection and love. He supplies my wants as well as needs because my greatest desire and lifelong delight has been to please



Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Him and to try to make others happy. In return, He's given me the greatest blessings any man can ask for: friends and family, the love of many children, joy, satisfaction of heart and soul, a feeling of genuine accomplishment, and sublime fulfillment in life. I sometimes feel I could depart at any moment in peace and contentment and complete satisfaction because I have not only seen the glory of the Lord, but the fulfillment of virtually every desire of my heart.

But if you put the desires of the flesh above God or others or the needs of your spirit, then you'll find that nothing ever satisfies, not even the most total indulgence in the flesh. Those who seek only to gratify their flesh or that of their mate will never find complete satisfaction and happiness. The things of this earth can satisfy the body, but only God and His true love can ever fill that aching spiritual void in the heart, because He created that place for Himself alone.

True happiness comes not in your personal pursuit of selfish pleasure and satisfaction, but in finding God and giving His love and life to others, and bringing them happiness. Then happiness will pursue and overtake and overwhelm you, personally, without you even seeking it for yourself.

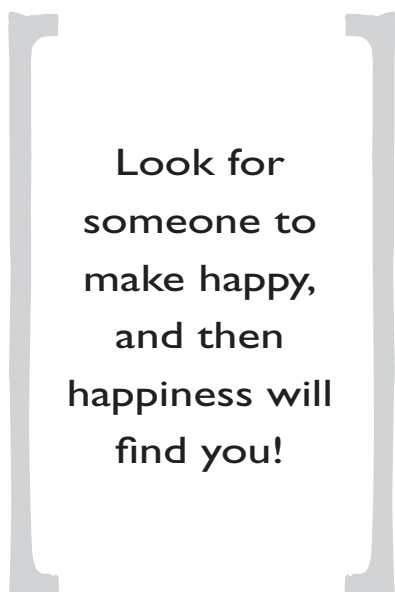
I once knew a woman who was always seeking a new lover but never finding one that satisfied or lasted because she was always seeking to get love, to receive love, to be loved. When I suggested to her that, after years of searching, perhaps she needed to learn to *give* love and to love unselfishly for the benefit of another, this struck her as an entirely new thought. It had never even occurred to her before! She went out and soon found what she had been looking for all the

time—by finding someone who she could make happy by giving him her love.

That's the secret: Look for someone to make happy, and then happiness will find you! "Give, and it will be given to you" (Luke 6:38). "Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap" (Galatians 6:7). Those are God's laws of the spirit and are just as definite as the laws of physics, such as gravity. God's laws of the spirit never fail. They *always* work, either for you or against you according to whether or not you follow them. And the first law is the law of love—unselfish love for Him and others. If you will obey that law and give the love that is His and others' due, you will also receive love, "for with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you" (Luke 6:38).

This is why so many people love me, because they know that I truly love them and really would prefer their happiness and well-being to my own. Seeing others happy and making others happy is my happiness. And it could be yours, too!

Life, liberty, and the giving of happiness to others—these are things that only God can give and the only things that will ever satisfy your spirit. So if you want to be happy and make someone else truly happy, seek the satisfaction of the spirit that can be found only in God and His love!♥



**Look for
someone to
make happy,
and then
happiness will
find you!**



Love

as seen through the
eyes of children

A GROUP OF SOCIAL SCIENTISTS asked this question to a group of four- to eight-year-olds: “What does love mean?” The answers they got were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined. See what you think.

“Love is that first feeling you feel before all the bad stuff gets in the way.”

“When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn’t bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That’s love.”

“When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You know that your name is safe in their mouth.”

“Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs.”

“Love is when someone hurts you, and you get so mad but you don’t yell at them because you know it would hurt their feelings.”

“Love is what makes you smile when you’re tired.”

“Love is when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be together and you talk more. My mommy and daddy are like that.”

“Love is what’s in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen.”

“If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate.”

“When you tell someone something bad about yourself and you’re scared they won’t love you anymore. But then you get surprised because not only do they still love you, they love you even more.”

“There are two kinds of love, our love and God’s love. But God makes both kinds of them.”

“Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well.”

“My mommy loves me more than anybody. You don’t see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night.”

“Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken.”

“Love is when Mommy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford.”

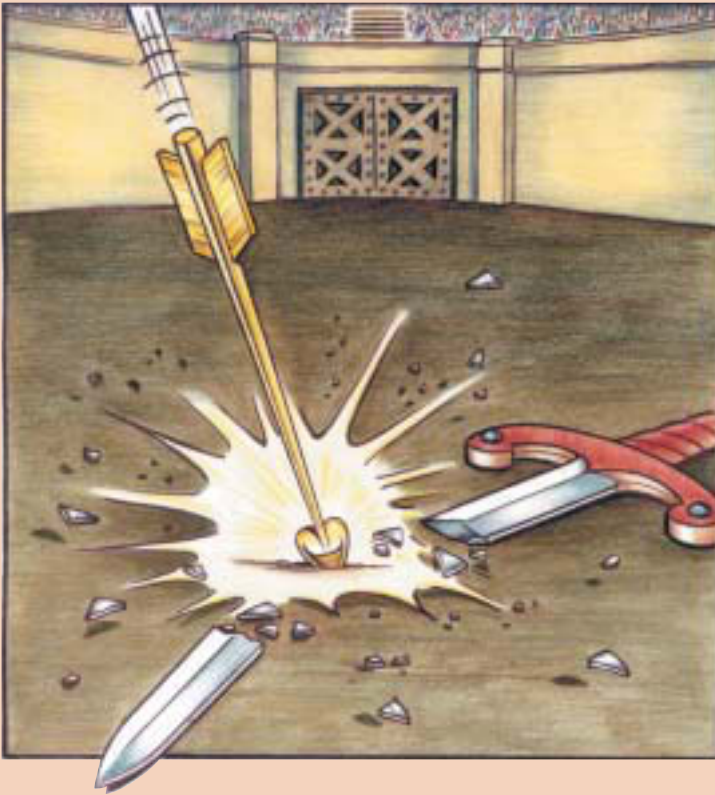
“Love is when your puppy is so glad to see you even though you left him alone all day.”

“Love cards say stuff on them that we’d like to say ourselves, but we wouldn’t be caught dead saying.”

“You really shouldn’t say I love you unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget.”

“When they crucified Jesus, God could have said magic words to make the nails fall off the cross, but He didn’t. That’s love.”

—Compiler unknown



THE ARENA

By Claire Nichols

MY HUSBAND AND I HAD JUST been to see the critically acclaimed movie *Gladiator*, and some of our friends asked us about it over lunch.

Some film critics have a knack for reviewing films without completely giving away the plot or unveiling the characters. I've always found that a challenge when asked to comment on a movie that the one asking hasn't seen yet. I gave it a shot.

"Russell Crowe plays the part of Maximus, a courageous and good-hearted Roman general. He finds himself up against a treacherous, self-obsessed young emperor, Commodus, played by Joaquin Phoenix. When the emperor calls for gladiatorial contests, Maximus must fight for a democratic Rome and win the support

of the people and the Roman Senate by beating the emperor at his own game—as a gladiator in the arena, tigers, tridents, and all! As one might expect, there is no shortage of violence or barbaric acts in this film."

"It's hard to imagine that there was a time when things like gladiator fights and feeding Christians to lions were considered great entertainment," a friend commented.

"Can you imagine inviting your girlfriend out for a date at the Roman arena? 'Come on. Let's go see some killings,'" another quipped.

Then someone else added, "In those days everyone went to the arena to watch gladiators. Today we go to the cinema. What's the difference?"

The discussion had started.

"Is there any historical truth to the storyline?" another asked. "Was there ever some Maximus-like general-turned-gladiator who fought against the tyranny of ancient Rome?"

No, there wasn't. But that got me thinking. What *did* change Rome?

Then I remembered a history lesson from school: Christianity conquered the paganism of the Roman Empire—by preaching love!

Legend also has it that when Jesus was brought to trial before the Roman governor Pontius Pilate, someone spoke out in Jesus' defense, saying, "All He's doing is teaching love!" And Pilate supposedly responded, "Love?! This man's doctrine is the greatest threat to Rome! It could destroy the Roman Empire! The Roman Empire doesn't survive by love! It survives by the sword! What if everybody believed this man? Everybody would lay down his arms and love one

another, and there'd be no more wars. If we were to let this Jesus preach His doctrine of love, our soldiers wouldn't want to kill any more. They wouldn't want to conquer any more. They wouldn't want to pillage and bring the world's riches to Rome. That's a dangerous doctrine—very dangerous!”

That story doesn't correspond to the account of Jesus' trial in the Gospels, of course, but if Pilate had been able to see into the future, that is likely what he *would* have said—and he would have been right! The early Christians shared a love that turned out to be more powerful than all the legions of Rome. When their Roman captors saw that the Christians would rather be mauled by lions and burned at the stake than give up their faith in Jesus and His doctrine of love, they knew that what the Christians had was the real deal—and Christianity finally won out. The Roman Empire has lain in ruins for centuries, but Christianity still flourishes.

Soon other stories came to my mind—stories of ordinary people down through the ages who gave their lives for others, even perfect strangers, out of love. And as Jesus said would happen, by their love the world knew that they were Jesus' disciples, for “greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends” (John 13:35; 15:13). Demonstrations of love by “ordinary” Christians, in acts both big and small, have advanced the teachings of Christ more than all the sermons preached or wars fought in His name.

But what about the world today? How did it get to the state that it's in, where tales of barbarism and blood lust don't belong solely to a bygone

era, and where horrific acts depicted on screen are carried out in real life? Has love lost the war for hearts and minds of the world?

It may appear so at the moment, but it's not over till it's over. Today's evils are helping to prepare the way for the final battle in which love and faith in the God of love will win out over hate and godlessness. Jesus said that these very things would be signs of His soon return: “Because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold” (Matthew 24:12).

The Bible also teaches that before long a final one-world government will come to power, headed by a Devil-possessed demigod, the Antichrist, who will be far worse than any Caesar or despot before him. “Then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be” (Matthew 24:21). But then, after just three and a half years of “great tribulation,” Jesus will return with power and great glory. He will rescue all those who have received Him as their Savior, destroy the Antichrist and his kingdom, and set up His own eternal kingdom on Earth (Matthew 24:30–31; Daniel 2:44). This time, evil is going down—forever!

Today, we each can choose to claim His love and live by it. Like the early Christians, I also may meet my earthly end for possessing it. But then again, I hope to live to see that day when Christ's love triumphs in the arena. 🌟

I hope to live
to see that
day when
Christ's love
triumphs in
the arena.

By Katie Roselle, USA

It Happened to Me

Friendship, marriage, children, travels, lessons—love and happiness!

DAN AND I HAVE BEEN MARRIED for over 25 years. We met when I was 18 and Dan 19, and we'd both just begun what would become lifetime careers as Christian volunteers with The Family. I was a full-time teacher for 17 preschoolers at the time. Completely immersed in my work with the children, I hadn't given much thought to marriage.

Then Dan volunteered to drive the children on Sunday outings. We lived quite far from the city, so I would read the Bible to him on the long drive. When it got too dark to read on the way home, we would sing. As our friendship grew, so did our respect for each other. A mutual love for the Lord and His Word brought us together and has kept us together all these years.

As soon as I got to know Dan, I knew he was the man I wanted to marry! I was attracted to him because of his enthusiasm and friendly manner, and because of all of the attention he showed to the children. He was very generous and seemed to always be giving to others.

Several months later, I relocated in another state where a new school was opening, while Dan stayed back. I had told God (but not Dan) that Dan was the one I wanted to marry; suddenly I didn't know if I would ever see him again.

Three months later, on Christmas Day, Dan came to where I was. We began working together again, helped set up the school, and finally talked about getting married. When we told our friends, they seemed to have a collective sigh of relief and said, "Finally!"

The night before our wedding, we stayed up all night working on classrooms for the new school. While we took a nap the next morning, the children made cards to surprise us. One of the most outstanding things about our wedding turned out to be a message from the Lord that one of our friends received for us, in which He said He had called us to serve Him together in these Last Days. That prophecy has since helped us



through many troubles and difficulties.

Heartbreaks and Healings

Then we hit some hard times. When I became pregnant for the first time, I didn't know how to take care of myself, so I overworked myself and practically stopped eating when I had morning sickness. Our first baby was born in the sixth month of pregnancy and didn't survive—a *very* difficult experience for such a young couple!

Shortly thereafter, we prayed about where the Lord wanted us next. As we learned more about hearing from God together and finding His will, opportunity knocked. God led us to move to Latin America, where we helped set up several small schools for the children of other Christian workers like ourselves.

I became pregnant again, and again our hearts were broken when the twins I was carrying were also born too early and passed on to be with the Lord. During these very difficult times, only the Lord and our faith in Him kept our marriage together. We learned to not give up, and also to not take the children that surrounded us for granted; each little life was a miracle.

In time the Lord blessed us with a baby who stayed

here with us. I needed extra strength and faith during that pregnancy, and God's Word became my greatest resource. I learned to live closer to Him, and He saw me through. Now Dan and I have seven wonderful children on Earth, and three in Heaven. The Lord has helped us through a lot!

Investing in a Marriage

We found that success in marriage depends largely on how much each partner is willing to give to make his or her spouse happy. We also found that problems entered in when pressures and responsibilities grew and we didn't make opportunities to keep up our communication. The work was inevitable, but we finally realized that we needed to organize our days to include special times together, to communicate and show that we cared about and appreciated one another.

Some things that helped us greatly were reserving an evening to go out together, to talk and pray and relax together; saying words of appreciation during "ordinary" days and activities; finding little things the other liked and doing them; banning discussions of the business of the day from bed, in favor of deeper and more intimate conversations; agreeing to talk out differences as they came up; helping each other see and correct mistakes we had made, while remaining respectful and loving.

Dan and I continue to work and travel together in our ministry for the Lord, but besides being married and working together, we're very good friends. It's taken a lot of love and good hard work on both sides, but the Lord has helped us to nurture and enjoy a very special and loving relationship—and that, of course, makes us love Him all the more!♥

Photo captions (top to bottom): 1. Fall of 1999, Southern California, USA: Dan and Katie Roselle. 2. Fall, 1973, Burlington, Washington, USA: Dan chopping wood for the winter. The building on the left is the school building where we taught. 3. Spring 1976, Caracas, Venezuela: Dan, Katie and first son, Daniel. First time to South America. 4. 2000, Colorado, USA: Dan, Katie, their seven children, and granddaughter. 5. November 1999, Tijuana, Mexico: Dan and Katie with a group of teenagers getting ready to paint an orphanage.



There is no difficulty that enough love will not conquer. No disease that enough love will not heal. No door that enough love will not open. No gulf that enough love will not bridge. No wall that enough love will not throw down. No sin that enough love will not redeem. It makes no difference how deeply seated may be the trouble, how hopeless the outlook, how muddled the tangle, how great the mistake. Sufficient love will dissolve it all.

—Emmett Fox

Answers to your questions

O My boyfriend and I normally get along great, but sometimes one or the other of us becomes frustrated when the other reacts differently than we expect or would like. How can we avoid those situations that put a strain on our relationship?



YOU'RE NOT THE FIRST to encounter this problem. In *My Fair Lady*, the musical adaptation of George Bernard Shaw's play *Pygmalion*, Professor Henry Higgins raises the question: "Why can't a woman be more like a man?" That just about sums it up—from both sides. Men think women ought to respond to things like men, and women wish that men thought and responded the way women do. That's not going to happen, of course, but the Lord does have a solution, as always.

The first thing to understand is that God made men and women the way they are, and for good reasons. A world of only men or only women would be as boring and off balance as it would be doomed. Gender differences also help make us more well-rounded people. It's usually fairly easy to understand those of our own sex, but relating to the opposite sex causes us to stretch ourselves in the areas of humility, love, and patience, to name a few. If all of that is so, then neither gender is wrong for being the way they are.

The next key is determining to bridge those differences, rather than letting them derail your relationship. If you're a newlywed, for example, it could hurt your feelings to realize that the love of your life still needs time with his or her other friends. Or it could frustrate you when your spouse experiences emotional ups



and downs that you don't. But once you understand these things, you'll be better equipped to accommodate your partner and not become resentful.

Here is a list of just a few of the differences between the sexes. Though general and of course not applicable in every case, this may provide food for thought:

- In general, men are more practical; women are more emotional.
- Men desire trust, respect, and acceptance; women desire words of love and endearment.
- Men like to get to the point; women like to discuss things from every angle.
- Men need more time to themselves; women need to express their feelings to others.
- Men like gifts that can be put to good use; women like sentimental and romantic gifts that make them feel special.
- Men tend to make decisions based on cir-

cumstances and practicalities; women are more likely to consider the emotional repercussions.

- Men often prefer to wait on working out marital problems in order to be more objective; women are more likely to want to talk it out and gain reassurance right away.

Not all men or women fit all these profiles, of course, because God made each of us a unique individual. So just because most men or women are a certain way doesn't mean that there's something wrong with those who aren't. Everyone is different! The idea here is not to put you or your loved one into a mold or to cause either of you to prejudge the other. It's to give you an idea of where your partner may be coming from, so you'll be more tolerant and understanding when differences arise. And remember: Love, humility, and prayer solve all problems. ♥

Feeding reading—Real love

Love is the best motive—and the best motivator.

2 Corinthians 5:14a

Genuine love has these qualities.

Song of Solomon 8:7a

1 Corinthians 8:1b

1 Corinthians 13:4–8

1 John 4:18

God's love unifies believers.

Colossians 2:2a

Ephesians 4:2–3

Hebrews 13:1

Love is humble, not pushy.

Romans 12:10

Galatians 5:13

Philippians 2:1–7

Philemon 8–9a

Love is considerate of others' weaknesses.

Romans 14:21

Romans 15:1–2

Love will not hurt or do wrong to others.

Romans 13:9–10

Love is kind and courteous.

Ephesians 4:15

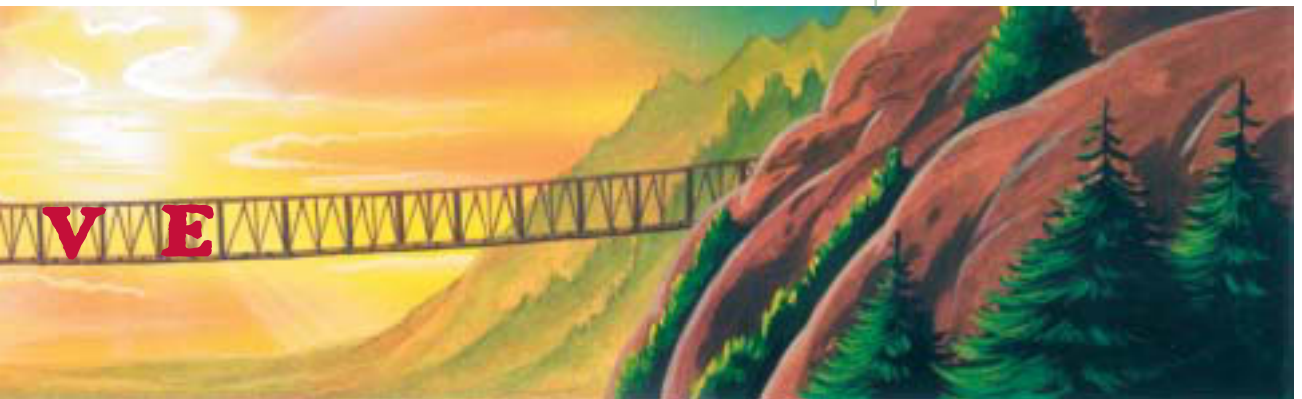
Ephesians 4:32

1 Peter 3:8

Special chapters on love in the Bible.

1 Corinthians 13

1 John 4



ONE OF THE DEVIL'S CLEVEREST TRICKS has been to deceive Christians into thinking that Jesus is going to rescue them out of this world before the three-and-a-half-year Great Tribulation, because those who believe that are going to be totally unprepared for the Tribulation, and it's going to shake the faith of some. A lot of Christians who are expecting to get "raptured" (gathered into Heaven at Jesus' Second Coming) *before* the Tribulation are going to get the shock of their lives, because that's not going to happen. Jesus said so Himself: "Immediately *after* the tribulation of those days ... they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other" (Matthew 24:29–31).

After the Tribulation shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in the heavens. *After* the Tribulation, then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn. *After* the Tribulation they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. *After* the Tribulation He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet and they shall gather His elect. That's when Jesus is going to come for you and me—*after* the Tribulation, and not a day before!

Why is Jesus going to return?—To gather His "elect," the *eklektos* in Greek, the

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE RAPTURE PART 2

Left

chosen ones, the saved. Christians will have been preaching the Gospel and winning multitudes to the Lord in this time of tribulation. Why would He pull His laborers out before those few years when people will be the most desperate for salvation and there will be one of the greatest harvests of souls ever, when we'll be "doing exploits and instructing many"? (Matthew 9:37–38; Daniel 11:32–33). And if we're going to be doing exploits and instructing many *during* the Tribulation, we must still be here. He is going to need lots of us here to tell the world what's happening.

But if God loves saved Christians so much, some people reason, why would He let them go through the Tribulation?—To put them to the test. He's going to test their faith to see if they really believe. Will they be witnesses for Him, or will they be ashamed of Him and try to save their lives by not witnessing? He's going to purge them and refine them as by fire, His Word says, to make them white (Daniel 11:35).

I'm sorry if you're disappointed to hear that! I'm sorry if you thought you had it made being a Christian because He'd come and rescue you before anything terrible happened. Well, He's not going to! The Tribulation is going to put us through the refining fire, but those who have real faith are going to come through like pure gold.

We know the Tribulation is going to be difficult, or it

wouldn't be called the Tribulation. But still, we shouldn't look ahead to it with trepidation, expecting horrible defeat with nothing but persecution and suffering. It's going to be primarily a time of great victory over the forces of Satan and tremendous triumph over the anti-Christ wicked. It's going to be a time of terrible and awesome events, but we are going to have terrible and awesome powers to protect us and defend us and deliver us and keep us going right to the end (Daniel 11:32; Revelation 12:7–11; 17:14). We don't need to worry or fear, because God is going to take care of His own (Revelation 3:10; 7:1–3; 12:6).

Another false teaching about the Rapture is that it's only for the "best" Christians. When I was a boy I heard different preachers say, "Some day you'll come home and find all your loved ones have disappeared." And sure enough, one day I came home from school and nobody was home. I thought, "Oh my! The Rapture has occurred! My dear sweet mother and father have gone to be with the Lord! They and all the other dear Christians I knew and who helped take care of me were all ready. They loved the Lord and weren't naughty like me! They've already gone to be with the Lord and here I am, left behind and all alone in this big house"—and I practically cried!

What a terrible thing to teach little children (or anyone, for that matter), that even if they love Jesus and are saved, if they're not good enough, if they didn't

Behind?

go to church enough or if they commit another sin, they're not going to be ready for Jesus when He comes, and they're going to miss the Rapture! The preachers said, "They may be saved, but they'll be left behind in that terrible Tribulation, because in the Rapture Jesus is only going to take the *good* people."

Well, let me tell you, *nobody* is ever good enough! Nobody can ever love Him enough. Nobody can ever be perfect enough, clean enough, pure enough, or holy enough except by the blood of Jesus Christ, and that's done the instant you receive Jesus as your Savior. So you don't have to worry about whether or not you're good enough. If you belong to Jesus, He is going to take you to be with Him when He comes, no matter what.

Nobody who has received Jesus is going to be left behind. Jesus promised to send His angels out to gather us from everywhere, from the four winds, from all around the world, and He won't leave one behind! He won't forget one—not one! (Matthew 24:31). Isn't that wonderful?

So if you have the Lord, you're ready! Now help *others* get ready. Pass on the Good News of God's love and salvation in Jesus to as many as you can. Tell your friends and family and everybody else so they may also be ready for the wonderful event that is soon to take place, when Jesus comes to rescue us out of this world and take us to heavenly places with Him for eternity. Don't let one be left behind because you failed to tell them!♥



From Jesus With Love
WHAT IS LOVE?

Is love a “pitty-patty” emotional feeling? Or is it something deeper, something steadier, something stronger and surer? Love comes in many forms. Love has many faces. Love brings with it many feelings—and many responsibilities. Love can’t be put in a box. Love is a gift that I place in the hearts of people the world over, yet love is manifested differently in each person’s life.

Love can be emotional or love can be stable. Emotional love can come and go, like the waves of the sea, but true love, My love, is more unmovable, unchanging, and eternal than the mountains.

The basis of all true love, of all marriages or any kind of deep personal relationship that is destined to succeed, must be in Me, the Source of love, the Creator of love, the Embodiment of love. If you make Me the foundation of your relationship, I will hold you together.

If you always look to Me, hold on to Me and love Me, then you can be assured that your love will grow and succeed because you have this sure promise: My love never fails.

—*Jesus*