

What is Love?

Explore the Characteristics of the Authentic

Many people have deceived themselves in a sensuous experience to think they love or are being loved. Many lives have been wrecked to misery and frustration because seemingly good gestures were cooed at them in a fallacious notion of love, all in a motive of satisfying some temporal ambition. Since we live in a world of fakes and counterfeits, it will be wise enough to explore of the characteristics of the authentic to be able to distinguish virtue from vices, and be able to acquire the ultimate which God has provided through His grace.

Some listed qualities of genuine love below will help you get a true love relationship with the One who has truly passed all the love tests, and demonstrated the principles by which we must follow in our love pursuits. Thus, giving us the grounds by which we must trust in Him.

-Genuine love must have or carry a lasting or everlasting value.

-It must be able to explore all areas of truth. That is to say, no hypocrisy, flatteries, or hidings exist in a true love relationship.

-It must not be self seeking or based on greed or selfishness.

-It must not be based on circumstances of convenience

-It must be able to pay a high price for the benefit of the one being loved.

When God created man, He occupied in him that central position that gave him his bliss and ultimate satisfaction. But when that relationship was ruined by man's disobedience in the Garden of Eden, God departed and since then, man has been left with a vacuum which has always yearned for its original bliss.

In the course of time, man has sought for contentment in nature and materialism which have proven false, deceptive and decaying.

Man has also sought for satisfaction from other men and even spirits only to find his live ruined in a wrong relationship.

All love relationships which do not pass the tests above are false and deceptive. You will read this material only to discover that your so called boyfriend or girlfriend whose ambitions are only temporal and selfish does not truly love you. This base relationship if continued, will only lead to a heavy penalty of eternal destruction in hell's unquenchable fire.

Satan as well has nothing good to offer anybody. The Bible describes him as the thief and liar who deceives men and steals from them (John10:10). He is the disguised monster who is out to crush men's lives by luring them into sinful and wicked practices in witchcraft, occultism, crime, drugs, sexual immorality, false riches, and the list cannot be exhausted. Thus, taking man's attention from God's eternal heaven only for them to find their destiny ended in a frustrating and tormenting eternal hell (Revelations 21:8).

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In all these false gestures of love, man is left in a condition of despair since he finds no true source of fulfilment in his life. But who can truly satisfy this yearning in man except the One who created him and occupied that position before his fall? Jesus is the only one who truly passes all the love tests. As we saw, practical love carries in it the gem of a true and costly sacrifice. Jesus, speaking of His depth of love to us said in John 15:13, *“greater love has no man than this, that a man lays down his life for his friends.”* He Himself demonstrated this by accepting to die on the cruel cross for your sake and mine; so that you should not *perish* (in hell) but have everlasting life. This act was, and is the only sacrifice that can wash away your sins no matter what they are.

God in Jesus has offered us everything that is genuine and eternal. He hasn't kept any truth from us; but has clearly shown us the way of salvation and ultimate satisfaction. What you have to do is open your heart for Jesus Christ to wash away your sins in His blood, make you born again by the Holy Spirit, and continue with you in a life of righteousness and genuine contentment until the kingdom of God is revealed.

If you have realised your shortcomings and would want to experience the salvation, purity, and joy that can be found only in Jesus Christ, then pray this prayer or one like it. It should truly come from your heart to the Lord.

Most gracious Lord, I have realised my sins and shortcomings before You. I plead that You forgive me and wash all these sins with the blood of Jesus. I now invite and receive Jesus into my life to be my personal Saviour and Lord. May You give me now the peace that only God can offer. Make me Your child and give me the grace to live for You all the rest of my life. In Jesus' name I have prayed. Amen.

If you have done this in sincerity, know that God has forgiven you totally. Praise God, you are saved. What you need to do is to pray to God every day as well as obtain and study your Bible daily. Also make other committed Christians to help you in your new life in Christ. May God richly bless you.

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