



Title: Love is a Choice

Text: John 15:9-13

Introduction: What type of love do you love others with? Do you love others only when they love you? Do you ever question if someones loves? Do you lose control of your attitude or actions when someone does something that offends you? Can you rightly claim you love someone if you respond this way toward them? Do you wish you would always have a right response, but it often seems you fail? Is it even possible? Let's explore what God tells us about love, and see how that will help us to be perfect.

Matt. 22:37
John 15:12,17
Matt. 5:44
Matt. 22:39
Mark 10:21
Eph. 5:25, Col 3:19
I Peter. 2:17
I John 2:10
Rev. 12:11
I John 2:15

1. Whom are we to Love?

- a) We are to love God
- b) We are to love One another
- c) We are to love our Enemies
- d) We are to love our neighbors
- e) We are to love the lost
- f) We are to love our spouse
- g) We are to love the brotherhood
- h) We are to love our siblings
- i) We are not to love ourselves
- j) We are not to love the world

2. What is Love?

- a) Love gives life
 - b) Love sacrifices its own life (gives life to get life)
 - c) Love is something to seek for
 - d) Love is not the default – Love and sin cannot co-exist)
 - e) Love is not to be confused with “liking”, or affection
 - f) Love is independent of circumstances
 - g) Love is commanded
 - h) Love fulfills the law
 - i) Love must be an accompaniment to good works
 - j) Love is patient – suffereth long
 - k) Love is kind
- John 12:25
Prov. 18:7
I John 3:5
John 15:18-19
John 13:31
Rom.13:8, Gal. 5:14
I Cor. 13:1-3
I Cor. 13:4
I Cor. 13:4

Application:

2.j) Matt. 6: 20-21 “But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: **For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**

What is the opposite of Love? The chances are that the first word that popped into your mind is “hate”. Hatred is murder, and in certain ways is the opposite of love, for love brings life. But there is another opposite of love, and that is covetousness. Love cares for things of others through God's plan. Covetousness is a care for self through self's plan.

2.e) II Sam. 13. Amnon didn't love Tamar, he had an affection for her. What he called loved, God calls covetousness. No action of his fits any of God's characteristics of love. How many of your actions fit the characteristics of love as God defines it? Compare your heart attitudes to his standard and correct them before they become hurtful actions.

2.f) Joseph loved Mary and was concerned for her more than himself which is demonstrated in Matt. 1:19. She was bearing a child that was not his, aside from a super-supernatural miracle, this meant she had not been faithful. Yet, he took time to think about what the right thing would be to do.. When you are confronted with something that challenges your love for someone, do you react quickly, or do you take time to think about how you can love this person best through the situation? Do you stop and take time to consider?

I Cor. 13:4
I Cor. 13:4
I Cor. 13:4
I Cor. 13:5
I Cor. 13:5
I Cor. 13:5
I Cor. 13:5
I Cor. 13:5
I Cor. 13:6
I Cor. 13:6
I Cor. 13:7
I Cor. 13:7
I Cor. 13:7
I Cor. 13:7
I Cor. 13:7
I Cor. 13:8

- l) Love envieth not – jealousy or covetousness
- m) Love is submissive to God’s will – Vaunteth not itself
- n) Love demonstrates humility – Is not puffed up
- o) Love responds graciously – Does not behave unseemly
- p) Love is selfless – Seeketh not her own
- q) Love is meeek – Is not easily provoked
- r) Love is pure – thinketh no evil
- s) Love rejoiceth not in iniquity
- t) Love rejoices in the truth
- u) Love beareth all things
- v) Love believeth all things
- w) Love hopeth all things
- x) Love endureth all things
- y) Love never fails

3. Where does love come from?

- a) From God
 - 1. It was demonstrated by sending Jesus Christ to die
 - 2. It is to be incorporated into our character
 - 3. It is not something we can create on our own, it is something we “receive” from him and can pass on.
- b) From our heart—“...out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh...”

I Jn 4:7
Jn 3:16, I Jn 4:9
I Jn 4:11-12
I Jn 5:2

Luke 6:45
Matt. 5:44, I Jn
4:12 Col 3:14

Application:

Covetousness:

1. Wanting something that is someone else’s
2. Wanting something that is not yours as a Christian to have
3. Looking to worldly pleasure when discouraged or depressed
4. Wanting something and being willing to get it the wrong way

Q: Can you love someone you do not know?

A: Yes. One example of this is loving your spouse before you marry them, or even meet them. Are your actions, attitudes and choices loving to a future spouse? The same could be said of loving a spouse after their death.

Evaluate what treasures you have in your heart: These treasures are often the things that occupy much of your thought life. Do you meditate on God’s word as you fall asleep, as you awake and other times during the day when you have a moment to “idle” your mind? Or—does your mind gravitate toward things about persons, places and things?