

**Real Love
Love Languages
1 Corinthians 13:1**

1 Corinthians 13:1 If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

2 If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's mysteries and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing.

3 If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.

13 Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

Big Idea – To communicate love you must learn to speak love's languages.

5 Love Languages from Gary Chapman's book

TO THOSE IN MY EARTHLY FAMILY

1. Physical touch

Romans 16:16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

Embarrassed to admit, this was a favorite verse of us as teenagers in the church! 😊

Of the five senses, touching, unlike the other four, is not limited to one area.

Tiny Tactile receptors are located all through out the body, when these receptors are touched, or pressed, nerves carry impulse to the brain. The brain then interprets these impulses, as we perceive these touches are

Warm, or cold,

Hard or soft

Causing pain or pleasure

We may also interpret it as loving or hostile

Physical touch can make or break a relationship

It can communicate hate, or love

To the person whose primary language is PT the message will be far louder than the words, "I hate you, or I love you"

A slap in the face is detrimental to any child, but to a child whose primary love language is PT it is devastating

A tender hug communicates love to any child, but it shouts love to the child whose primary love language is PT

The same is true of adults

In marriage the touch of love may take many forms,

Because touch receptors are located throughout the body, touching your spouse anywhere can be accepted as love

That does not mean that all touches are created equal

In our culture this is strange and unacceptable. I think what is intended here is physical touch, like a hug, a handshake, a pat on the back. Physical touch is important. Jesus was always touching people and we need to do the same.

Babies and the elderly do much better when they receive tender, affirming physical touch. Doctors with positive bedside manners usually reach out and touch the patient's arm or hand.

One caveat, some people have a hard time with physical touch. We must be sensitive to the desires of another person. However, there is a time, place and manner in which touch is important for all.

2. Words of affirmation

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11

This is more natural for some than others but this is a tangible way to express love.

“The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.” Proverbs 18:21, NIV.

Need to give words of appreciation for something someone did. Send a card over internet or mail

Give words of encouragement, encourage means to inspire courage, “You can do it.”

3. Quality time

The Biblical understanding of quality time is abiding or remaining. Drawing near and drawing the other person out. We see this Greek word being used in the Gospels and Acts as staying or dwelling in a place. “When she (Lydia) and the members of her household were baptised, she invited us to her home. “If you consider me a believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay (abide there, remain there), at my house.” And she persuaded us.” Acts 16:15.

“Keep on loving each other as brothers.” Hebrews 13:1. Another translation: Let brotherly love remain (abide). Important to spend time together. “Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:46, 47, Quality time is loving someone enough to lay aside the worry and distraction in order to be fully present.

In *A Mile in My Shoes*, Trevor Hudson says: Let me describe what it means to be truly present. Being present involves letting go of our constant preoccupations, immersing ourselves in the here and now, and giving ourselves wholeheartedly to whatever is at hand. ... It's about becoming more aware, alert, awake to the fullness of the immediate moment. If we are with another person, it means engaging with him or her with all of our heart, our mind, our soul, and our strength. Such wholehearted attention requires patience, time, and disciplined effort. And it is one of the greatest gifts that we can give to those around us.

4. Acts of service

Acts of service means doing things you know you would like done.

To express your love for them by doing things for them.

Cooking a meal, washing clothes, ironing, emptying the dishwasher, putting away the dishes, taking out the garbage, changing the baby's diaper, washing the car, dusting the book case, or changing the water in the goldfish bowl

Acts of Service:

Require thought, time energy, selfless giving of time, and talent. If done with a good spirit will fill the emotional love tank of the one whose love language is AOS

Mowing the grass, changing the light bulb, Cleaning the windows
communicate to the person whose primary love language is Acts of service

One of the clearest pictures of the essence of the Christian faith is that of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. In a culture where people wore sandals and walked on dirt streets, it was customary for the servant of the household to wash the grimy feet of guests as they arrived. Jesus, who had instructed his disciples to love one another, gave them an example of how to express that love when He took a basin and a towel and proceeded to wash their feet. After that simple expression of love, He encouraged His disciples to follow His example.

Galatians 5:13 For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.

5. Gift giving

A gift is something you can hold in your hand and say, look He was thinking of me, or she remembered me

From early childhood children are inclined to give gifts. Maybe it's a flower brought to a mother, even if it is a flower that you didn't want picked.

If you notice your children giving a lot of gifts that just might be there love language.

To the individual whose love language is giving gifts the cost is irrelevant

Unless of course, it is greatly out of line with what you can afford. If you are a millionaire, and you are giving your spouse 1-dollar gifts, the spouse may question if that is an expression of love.

But when family resources are limited a dollar gift may speak a million dollars of love.

So what about the one who says,

I'm not a gift giver

I never got gifts when I was a kid,

I don't see where it is relevant,

It doesn't come naturally for me.

If that's you , then....

Congratulations!

You have just had the first discovery in becoming a great lover.

You and your spouse speak different love languages

Now that you have made that discovery get on with the business of learning your second language.

If gift giving is your spouses love language, then you are blessed, because it is one of the easiest love languages to learn.

I think mainly because everyone understands how that giving gifts can be interpreted as love.

Practical Tips

Make a list of every gift your spouse has been excited about through the years.

Maybe gifts you have given, or gifts given by other family and friends

This will give you an idea of the kind of gifts your spouse would enjoy receiving

If you don't know what it is that your spouse likes to receive, then recruit the help of a close friend or family member

Here is the Clincher

DON'T WAIT FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION

BTW If your spouse has been critical of your gifts in the past then receiving gifts is absolutely not their love language.

If this is the language they speak, they love any dialect of that language

If you are to become an effective gift giver you may have to change your attitude about money

Each of us has different emotions associated to money, and its purpose

Some of us have a spending orientation

(We feel good about ourselves when we are spending it)

Others of us have a saving and an investing prospective

We feel good about ourselves when we are saving money

If you are a spender Gift giving won't be difficult

If you are a saver, then you will experience great emotional resistance to spending money as an expression of love to your spouse

If this is you and your spouse's love language is receiving gifts then you need to understand that when you fill your spouses emotional love tank by gift giving that is the greatest investment you can make.

What good are the house, car, vacation, and the Investment portfolio if you were to lose your spouse?

What good is it to climb the ladder if it is leaning against the wrong wall?

A gift is something that says, "I was thinking of you. I wanted you to have this. I love you."

Gifts are visible symbols of love. During most wedding ceremonies the bride and groom give and receive rings. The person performing the ceremony says something like this, "These rings are outward and visible signs of the bond which unites your two hearts in love that has no end."

Some gifts only last for a few hours. Many moms will remember this gift- a dandelion picked from the yard and given to her by her child. The gift was quickly gone, but the memory lingers. Other gifts, like a ring, endure for a lifetime. The important thing is not the gift, but the love that is communicated by the gift. The right gift is any token, big or small, that speaks of love.

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

The Greek word from which we get our English word gift is charis, which means "grace," or an undeserved gift. A gift by its very nature is not payment for services rendered. "For it is by grace you have been saved,

through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--" Ephesians 2:8, NIV.

God's Love Language is Obedience

Jn.14:15 - "If you love me, you will obey what I command."

1Jn.3:18 - "Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."

Phil.2:21 tells us most people aren't that interested in loving God. It says, "Everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ."

They might like the Christian facade, but they don't speak His love language.

James 1:22 warns us, saying, - "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

1 Kings 18:21 - "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him."

"No Lord" doesn't work!

Do what He says.

You know what He's called you to - Don't pull a Jonah!

1st obey His general commands.

Then obey His specific commands.

Do the hard things - Integrity, evangelism, discipleship, etc.

Not just what you're gifted and good at! Learn trust and dependence.

2 Cor.5:14-15 - "Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again."

Again, God's love language, 1 Jn.5:3 - "This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome."

I read a great observation about Ps.16:11 which says, "In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever."

Jesus was at God's right hand (Acts 2:33) because He obeyed His Father (Jn.14:10). God's right hand is a place of obedience and at His right hand there are pleasures forever.

People last for eternity. When I walk in obedience to Him I will bear eternal fruit (Jn.15:16) and that will give me joy for eternity.

John 15:12 "This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.