

# What is Love?

## 1. Love is a daily \_\_\_\_\_.

“The Love Dare journey is not a process of trying to change your spouse to be the person you want them to be. You’ve no doubt already discovered that efforts to change your husband or wife have in failure and frustration. Rather, this is a journey of exploring and demonstrating genuine love, even when your desire is dry and your motives are low. ***The truth is, love is a decision and not just a feeling.*** It is selfless, sacrificial, and transformational. And when love is truly demonstrated as it was intended, your relationship is more likely to change for the better.” **The Love Dare, Introduction, viii, ix.**

“Unfortunately, our Western culture particularly has propagated the idea that *feelings* of attraction and particularly *sexual* feelings are the essence of love. This is a very superficial and inadequate explanation of what keeps a marital relationship on track. In many instances what is initially classified as ‘love’ is a *selfish* feeling – a *desire* to have the other person satisfy a personal need...More than ever before we need a more adequate view of premarital and marital love. I believe the Bible provides that view. There is no other source that provides a better perspective. All other approaches are limited, un-satisfactory and ultimately disillusioning.” **Gene Getz, The Measure of a Marriage, 86-87.**

**1 Corinthians 13:4-8:** “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.<sup>5</sup> It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.<sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.<sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.<sup>8</sup> Love never fails.”

**“Act the way you want to become and you will become the way you act.”** *Anonymous*

## 2. Love is a daily \_\_\_\_\_.

**Romans 5:8:** “But ***God demonstrates his own love for us*** in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

**John 3:16:** “***For God so loved the world that he gave*** his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

## OUR MODEL TO FOLLOW IN ALL OF LIFE

**Ephesians 5:1-2:** “***Be imitators of God***, therefore, as dearly loved children<sup>2</sup> ***and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us*** and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

“Love is the willingness to surrender that which has value for our own life to enrich the life of another.” **C.H Dodd**

➤ **Love \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Matthew 5:43-47:** “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’<sup>44</sup> But I tell you: ***Love your enemies*** and pray for those who persecute you,<sup>45</sup> that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.<sup>46</sup> ***If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?***<sup>47</sup> ***And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?***”

➤ **Love \_\_\_\_\_.**

**1 John 3:16-18:** “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. ***And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.***<sup>17</sup> If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?<sup>18</sup> Dear children, ***let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.***”

**John 13:35:** “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, ***if you love one another.***”

➤ **Love \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Ephesians 5:25-30:** “***Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her***<sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,<sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.<sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.<sup>29</sup> After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—”

**Titus 2:3:** “Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to

teach what is good. <sup>4</sup> Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children..."

## Final Thoughts

Will you take the Love Dare and watch your marriage change?

### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Prayer** – open your time together by inviting the Lord to be in your midst and leading your discussion.

**Fireproof Your Marriage Movie** – take time to talk about the movie and how it impacted you. What did you learn?

**The Love Dare** – take time to talk about the daily reading in “*The Love Dare*” book. How has it challenged you? Changed you? What have you discovered about yourself?

**Reading of “The Love Dare” began on Sunday April 19.**

- 1). What did you learn from Sunday’s message that changed, impacted, or challenged you?
  - 2). How did you define ‘love’ before Sunday? What do you think about this definition now that you’ve heard Sunday’s message?
  - 3). Take time to read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 and replace the word love with your name. How well do you love others? Your spouse? Name two or three areas you need God’s help in developing in your life.
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-8:** “**Love** is patient, **love** is kind. **It** does not envy, **it** does not boast, **it** is not proud. <sup>5</sup> **It** is not rude, **it** is not self-seeking, **it** is not easily angered, **it** keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> **Love** does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> **It** always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. <sup>8</sup> **Love** never fails.”
- 4). What do you think about the quote, “*act the way you want to become and you will become the way you act*”? How does this relate to marriage? Is it really possible to love someone even when ‘romantic feelings’ are gone? Is it possible that by acting the right way you can restore romantic feelings?

**Prayer**

**Series: Fireproof Your Marriage**  
**Today’s Message: “The Love Dare”**  
Pastor Cory Anderson / SMC / 04.19.09

## Introduction:

### Will you take ‘*The Love Dare*’?

**1 Corinthians 13:1-8:** “If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. <sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. <sup>8</sup> Love never fails.”

### Objections to Taking *The Love Dare*

**OBJECTION #1:** I’m not \_\_\_\_\_ and/or I’m \_\_\_\_\_.

**OBJECTION #2:** I don’t \_\_\_\_\_ it, as I already have a \_\_\_\_\_ marriage.

**Proverbs 1:5:** “let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance...”

**OBJECTION #3:** I don’t have a \_\_\_\_\_, my spouse does.

**OBJECTION #4:** My spouse is not \_\_\_\_\_ in taking the journey with me.

**OBJECTION #5:** I don’t \_\_\_\_\_ like loving so how am I supposed to love?