

Love, Sex, & Relationships Part 1: Love

*"And now these three **remain**: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."
1 Corinthians 13:13 NIV*

*"Do **everything** in **love**." 1 Corinthians 16:14 NIV*

✓ **Familial** in its nature.

*"Be devoted to one another in **love**. Honor one another above yourselves." Romans 12:10 NIV*

"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." 1 John 4:7-8 KJV

✓ **Friendship** at its best.

*"And let our people learn to devote themselves to **good works**, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful. All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who **love** us in the faith. Grace be with you all." Titus 3:14-15 ESV*

*"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his **friends**." John 15:13 NKJV*

✓ **Passionate** in its expression.

*"But if a man thinks that he's treating his fiancée improperly and will inevitably give in to his **passion**, let him marry her as he wishes. It is not a sin." 1 Corinthians 7:36 NLT*

✓ **Unconditional** in its commitment.

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

*"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 and sisters." 1 John 3:16 NIV*

1. Ask God to direct your passions.

*"The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us **desires** that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires." Galatians 5:17 NLT*

*"The king's **heart** is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes. Every man's way is right in his own eyes, But the Lord weighs the hearts." Proverbs 21:1-2 NASB*

2. Give friendships another chance.

*"**Two are better than one** because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up. Furthermore, if two lie down together they keep warm, but how can one be warm alone? And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart." Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 NASB*

3. Forgive the people who let you down.

*"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. **First go and be reconciled to them**; then come and offer your gift." Matthew 5:23-24 NIV*

4. Accept the unconditional love of God.

*"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. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to **save the world** through him." John 3:16-17 NIV*

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, **not counting people's sins against them**." 2 Corinthians 5:17-19 NIV*