

Love

1. Is it possible to have 'un-conditional' love in marriage? _____

2. Can love reach its 'used by date'? _____

3. How can feelings obscure our understanding of love? _____

4. What does the fact that God commands us to love tell us about the true nature of love? _____

5. Rev. 19:7-9 talks of Jesus as the Groom and the Believers as the Bride. How can we view marriage considering this relationship? _____

If we consider the covenant relationship between believers and Jesus Christ, how does this relationship give a new perspective on marriage?

Test your Love

Sometimes it is difficult to really determine if what you are feeling is genuine love, here are several tests for love.

1. ***The Sharing Test.***
Are you able to share together? Do you want to make your partner happy or do you want to become happy?
2. ***The Strength Test.***
Does your love give you new strength and fill you with creative energy? Or does it take away your strength and energy?
3. ***The Respect Test.***
Do you really have respect for each other? Are you proud of your partner?
4. ***The Habit Test.***
Do you only love each other or do you also like each other and accept each other with your habits and shortcomings?
5. ***The Quarrel Test.***
Are you able to forgive each other and give in to each other? The ability to be reconciled after a real quarrel must be tested before marriage.
6. ***The Time Test.***
"Never get married until you have summered and wintered with your partner." Has your love summered and wintered? Have you known each other long enough to know each other well?"
7. ***The Separation Test.***
Do you feel an unusual joy while in the company of each other? Is there pain in separation?
8. ***The Giving Test.***
Love and marriage are giving, not getting. Are you in love to give? Are you capable of self-giving? Is this quality of self-giving constantly evident?
9. ***The Growth Test.***
Is your love dynamic in its growth? Is it progressively maturing? Are the characteristics of Christian love developing?
10. ***The Sex Test.***
Is there a mutual enjoyment of each other without the constant need of physical expression? If you can't be together without petting, you don't have the maturity and love essential for marriage. ⁷