

The Most Important Thing

TEXT: Matthew 22:34-40 (page 980 in the Pew Bible)

- I John 4:16 / John 3:16 / I John 14:10-11, 19
- Romans 5:5 / II Timothy 1:7 / Matthew 10:8

Love for God will be evidenced by...

1. _____

- John 14:15, 21, 23 / II John 6
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2. _____

- I Peter 4:8 / Matthew 6:14-15 / Matthew 18:23-35
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3. _____

- I Corinthians 13:1-3
- Ephesians 5:25 / Titus 2:4
- John 13:34-35 / I Peter 2:17 / Matthew 5:44-48
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I Corinthians 13:4-7 ⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

True love is 100% selfless.

80% of true love is: a choice to treat someone in their very best interests regardless of personal cost or sacrifice

20% of true love is: an emotion that deeply and passionately desires the best for someone

Five Principles Concerning Love

1. I can learn what love is from the Word of God. It is rational, not irrational. I can understand love and grow in the understanding of love throughout my lifetime.

2. Love is not easy or simple; it is an art that I must want to learn and pour my life into. I can learn how to love.

3. Love is an active power that I control by my own will. I am not the helpless slave of love. I can choose to love.

4. Love is the power that will produce love as I learn to give it rather than strive to attract it.

5. Love recognizes a unique value in the other, always choosing to affirm their worth. Love consistently does the best for the beloved.