

THE LANGUAGES OF LOVE

TEXT: I Corinthians 13

Language is the method of **communication**, either spoken, written or displayed through **symbols or expressions**/gestures that convey an **idea**.

Languages of Love:

1. Words of Affirmation
2. Quality of Time
3. Receiving Gifts
4. Acts of **Service**
5. **Physical Touch**
6. **Forgiveness**
7. **Listening**

The complexities of life require that we operate in a multi-functional, multi-layered fashion. One dimensional individuals will often struggle with healthy love relationships. Therefore, the languages of love should be seen as a team or working in concert with each other.

FOCUS: Acts of Service

One of the many challenges of love is found in the reality that mature love cannot be seen just as emotional feelings. Healthy love must offer **(service)**.

(Service):

- action of helping or doing for someone;
- a system supplying a need;
- work or labor that is performed;
- contribution to the welfare of others

Love must be viewed as **(work)** and not just as an easy and natural flow.

Gift vs. Service

Love does more than provide gifts to others. Love is also the opportunity to provide services to the ones we love.

Gifts do not require an individual to change. One may change after receiving a gift, but change is not a **(prerequisite)** for a gift. Service may require some level of **(partnership)**. There must be a willingness to receive help from others.

Love displayed as a gift is based upon **(celebrating)**.

Love displayed as service is based upon **(constructing)**.

The difference between the two is **(motive/intent)**.

Service is based upon:

1. **(Need)** –

Need supersedes desires or wishes. An assessment must be done, or a revelation must be given as to what services should be rendered. Sometimes, a person can express what their needs are. The language of quality time makes identifying the need possible.

2. **(Intentionality)**

Having accepted what the real needs are, the work must commence with intentionality.

Service is designed to help or to build up.

3. (Providing Correct Help)

Doing a service without doing it right could cause greater damage to the one you love. One may have the heart to help but not the skill(s) to do the job.

John 13:34-35

"A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another, as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another."

The Question: What type of love does Jesus have for us?

The word love in this text is agape. It means (affection) and (good will).

The type of love Jesus has for us is the same type of love God had for Jesus. John 15:9, *"As the Father hath loved me, so I have loved you; continue ye in my love."*

The same word agape was used for the love that the Father has towards Jesus and the love that Jesus has towards His disciples.

The love of the Father is not just an affection love but also a love of good will.

(Good will) is support or concern toward... push toward a goal.

The love of the Father (God) had to be strong enough to release Jesus to do and complete His assignment. Jesus always felt the support of His Father. Support does not always remove discomfort, but support provides additional strength.

So, when Jesus said, "... by this will all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another," He wanted us to love affectionately and with good will.

Proverbs 3:11-12 (NLT)

"My child, don't reject the Lord's discipline and don't be upset when he corrects you.

For the Lord corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child whom he delights."

The Kings James version, (chastening/correction) = discipline

When the language of love through acts of service is done correctly, then it will become a (gift):

- to you.
- to others
- to God.

What is your take-away?