

## True Love Is Spelled C-O-M-M-I-T-M-E-N-T

**Text: John 21:15 – 17** “So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, **Simon, son of Jonas, lovest (agape) thou me more than these?** He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love (phileo) thee. He saith unto him, **Feed my lambs.** <sup>16</sup>He saith to him again the second time, **Simon, son of Jonas, lovest (agape) thou me?** He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love (phileo) thee. He saith unto him, **Feed my sheep.** <sup>17</sup>He saith unto him the third time, **Simon, son of Jonas, lovest (agape) thou me?** Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love (phileo) thee. Jesus saith unto him, **Feed my sheep.**

**Introduction:** In an age where love is defined by "the way we feel today," God's Word helps us to understand that true love is not spelled... "F-E-E-L-I-N-G-S", but rather... "C-O-M-M-I-T-M-E-N-T."

- I. 1 Cor. 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love (agapaō) him.
- II. Ephesians 5:22 – 28 “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. <sup>24</sup>Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in every thing. <sup>25</sup>Husbands, love (agape) your wives, even as Christ also loved (agape) the church, and gave himself for it; <sup>26</sup>That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, <sup>27</sup>That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. <sup>28</sup>So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.
- III. Titus 2:1 – 5 “But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: <sup>2</sup>That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. <sup>3</sup>The aged women likewise, that *they be* in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; <sup>4</sup>That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love (phileo) their husbands, to love (philoteknos - maternal love) their children, <sup>5</sup>*To be*

discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.”

(agape love – a deep abiding, sacrificial love)

(phileo – an affectionate love – feelings)

(philoteknos – maternal love)

What is love?

No words can define it-  
It's something so great  
only God could design it.  
It grows through the years  
in sunshine and rain,  
In gladness and sadness,  
In pleasure and pain,  
It's ever-enduring  
and patient and kind-  
It judges all things  
With the heart, not the mind...  
And love can transform  
The most common place  
Into beauty and splendor  
And sweetness and grace...  
Yes, love is beyond  
what man can define,  
For love is immortal,  
And God's gift is divine.

Helen Steiner Rice

## I. True Loves Requires Action

- A. Jesus said in John 14:15 “If ye love (agape) me, keep my commandments.”
- B. Jesus showed His love by laying down His life.
- C. Our Heavenly Father showed His love by sacrificing His son on the cross of Calvary.
- D. You can show your love for God by your actions.
  1. Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved him. John 21:15-17  
“So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, **Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?** He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto

him, **Feed my lambs.** <sup>16</sup>He saith to him again the second time, **Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?** He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, **Feed my sheep.** <sup>17</sup>He saith unto him the third time, **Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?** Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, **Feed my sheep.**

2. How much do you love Jesus this morning?
  - a. enough to put Him first in your life
  - b. enough to come to church this morning
  - c. enough to praise Him this morning
  - d. enough to invite someone to come this morning

## II. True Love Requires A Response

- A. Lip service is not good enough for God.
- B. Service
- C. Sacrifice
- D. Suffer

## III. True Love Last Forever

- A. No such thing as divorce
- B. Eternal
- C. It's the glue that holds

Conclusion: Ask yourself this morning how much do you love Jesus?  
What are you doing for Him to show your love?