

Monthly Devotion

FEBRUARY

“Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us...”

Ephesians 5:1-2a



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At present the shops are full of Easter eggs and Valentines gifts and cards. Valentines' day, being of course 14th February and the day when we celebrate love. Amidst the fluffy toys, numerous red hearts and red roses, we may well ask the question, 'What is Love?'

In 1972 the actor and film star Nanette Newman wrote a book entitled 'God Bless Love'. It presented thoughts on what love is from a child's point of view-

Norman, aged 6, did not think that he would fall in love as he was not impressed with girls!

'I wouldn't fall in love because girls are all spotty and they wisper'

Peter, aged 5 seemed to be under the impression that love is bad for your health.

'Love it makes you coff a lot'

Tessa, aged 8 was reflective in her thoughts on love,

'Sometimes when there's lots of wars, they ration love'

In their usual open fashion children expressed what they thought love is-some of their observations were amusing, other were quite profound.

As adults we become complacent about love and some people might find it hard to articulate what love is. These days we use the term to describe many different aspects of life, suggesting that we love chocolate bars or the latest fashion trend. Television and social media cheapen love, suggesting that we can easily fall in and out of love, and move on to 'love' again, such 'love' being measured by looks, wealth or intellect. Such presentations of love, no matter how much we chase them, do not answer the deep yearning that we all have to be loved.



The love that we yearn for - true love comes from God. A love which is unconditional, makes no demands and enfolds us; a love which is beyond our understanding. To express this love God sent His Son to us to show us what love is.

John 3:16: 'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life'

In the hectic demands of life, we can be so busy that we dismiss our need **for love**, and our need **to love**, then and now, as in the Paul's first letter to the Corinthian church:

'If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing'

1 Corinthians 13:1-4

Jesus showed us the depth of God's love for us, by dying on the cross and rising again. Jesus enabled us to live as 'Easter people' and gave us the ultimate example of how deep and high and wide love is. He showed us that God's love will not let us go and called us to go and love others as we are loved.

'Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us...'

Ephesians 5:1-2a



To Pray

Your love
flows like a stream
into the ocean of your Grace.

Your love
encircles this world,
displays your faithfulness.

Your love
is patient and kind,
brings wholeness and true peace.

Your love
is all we desire
to heal our brokenness.

As all things pass
and fade away
love remains
Eternally

Amen

John Birch - Faith and Worship

Our monthly devotion is written by Susan Hutchinson
for shallowfordhouse.org

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