

THE TREASURE OF
LOVE



PRESENTED TO:

FROM:

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LOVE

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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FOREWORD

It is often said that love is unfathomable. Through the ages, writers and philosophers have tried unsuccessfully to give a concise definition. One simple gesture of love will speak louder than pages of words. Nevertheless, we can use words to give us inspiration, to motivate us, and to give us ideas that will help us translate the noun “love” into its verb form, not just in grandiose deeds, but in the daily details that make up its essence.

Even with all the complexities of today’s world, love is as effective today as it ever was and has not lost one iota of its power. There never has been, and never will be, a stronger force than love. Love is the life force of the universe. What has been wrought by love has had a far greater and longer-lasting effect in the world than anything that was achieved by pride, violence, or any selfish motive.

In this world, structured with little flexibility for human need, it is urgent that we travel the path of love, starting in our personal family circles, then the workplace, then our neighborhoods and communities, and then our own countries and beyond. It is essential that we embrace love ourselves and propagate it, lest we become consumed by its opponents—apathy, hostility, selfishness, and cruelty.

We pray that these words will inspire us to love more, to make room for love and let it transform us and our little corner of the world. That we live by the saying, “There is no difficulty that enough love will not conquer, no door that enough love will not open.” And in the words of Scripture, “His banner over me was love.”¹

1. Song of Solomon 2:4



THE TREASURE OF LOVE

AND NOW ABIDE FAITH, HOPE, LOVE, THESE THREE;
BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13 NKJV

LOVE is just a word until someone comes along and gives it meaning.

Author unknown

THERE is no surprise more magical than the surprise of being loved: it is God's finger on man's shoulder.

Charles Morgan

YOU will find as you look back upon your life that the moments when you have truly lived are the moments when you have done things in the spirit of love.

Henry Drummond

WHAT barrier is there that love cannot break?

Mahatma Gandhi

WHERE there is great love, there are always miracles.

Willa Cather

DUTY makes us do things well, but love makes us do them beautifully.

Phillips Brooks

THERE is no difficulty that enough love will not conquer; no disease that enough love will not heal; no door that enough love will not open; no gulf that enough love will not bridge; no wall that enough love will not throw down; no sin that enough love will not redeem. It makes no difference how deeply seated may be the trouble; how hopeless the outlook; how muddled the tangle; how great the mistake. A sufficient realization of love will dissolve it all.

Emmet Fox

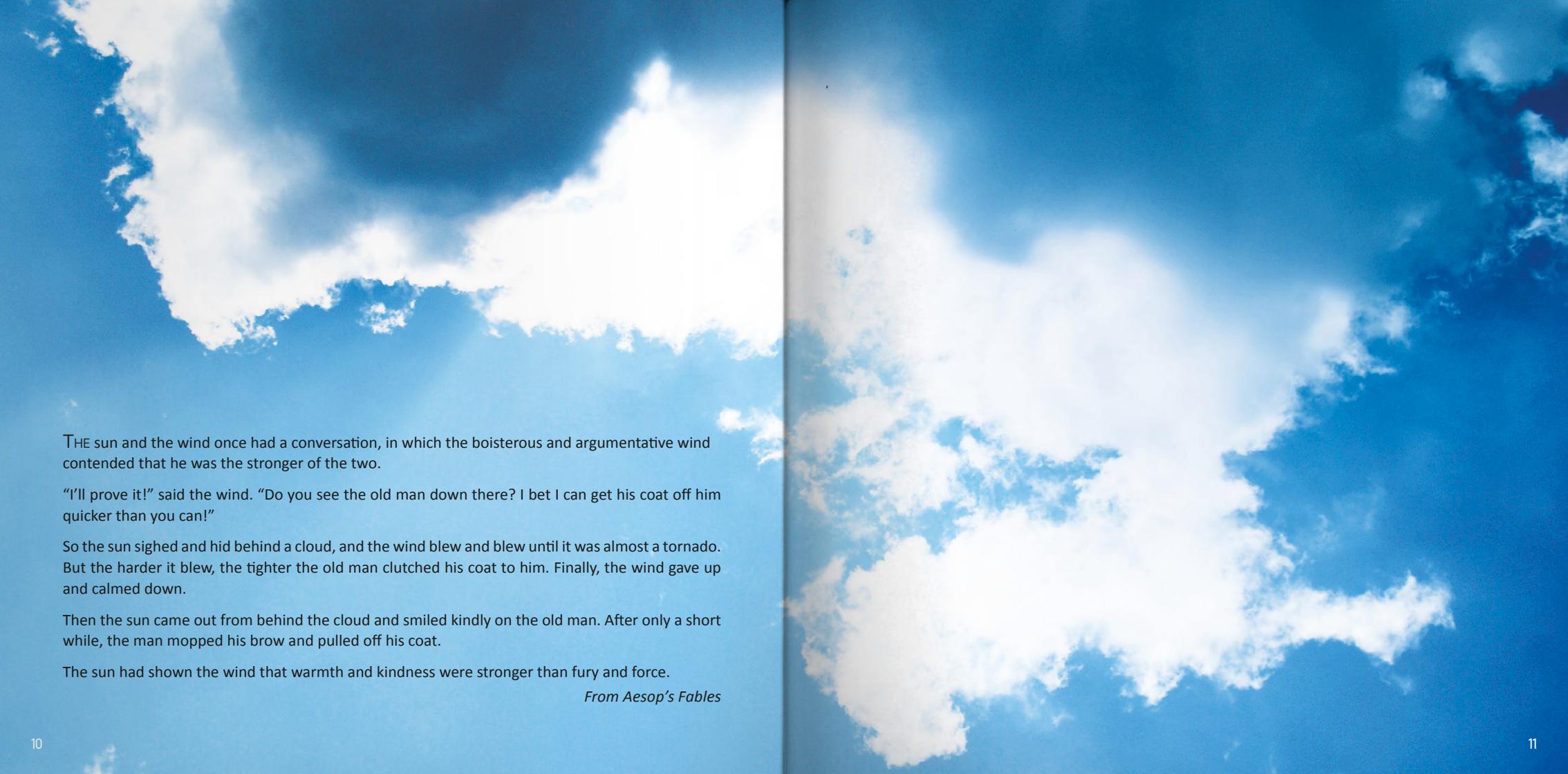
MANY waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot sweep it away. If one were to give all the wealth of one's house for love, it would be utterly scorned.

Song of Solomon 8:7 NIV

IRON is strong, but fire melts it.
Fire is strong, but water quenches it.
Water is strong, but the clouds evaporate it.
Clouds are strong, but wind drives them away.
The wind is strong, but man withstands it.
Man is strong, but fear weakens him.
Fear is strong, but wine removes it.
Wine is strong, but sleep overcomes it.
Sleep is strong, yet death is stronger.
But loving kindness survives death.

Rabbi Judah bar Ilai





THE sun and the wind once had a conversation, in which the boisterous and argumentative wind contended that he was the stronger of the two.

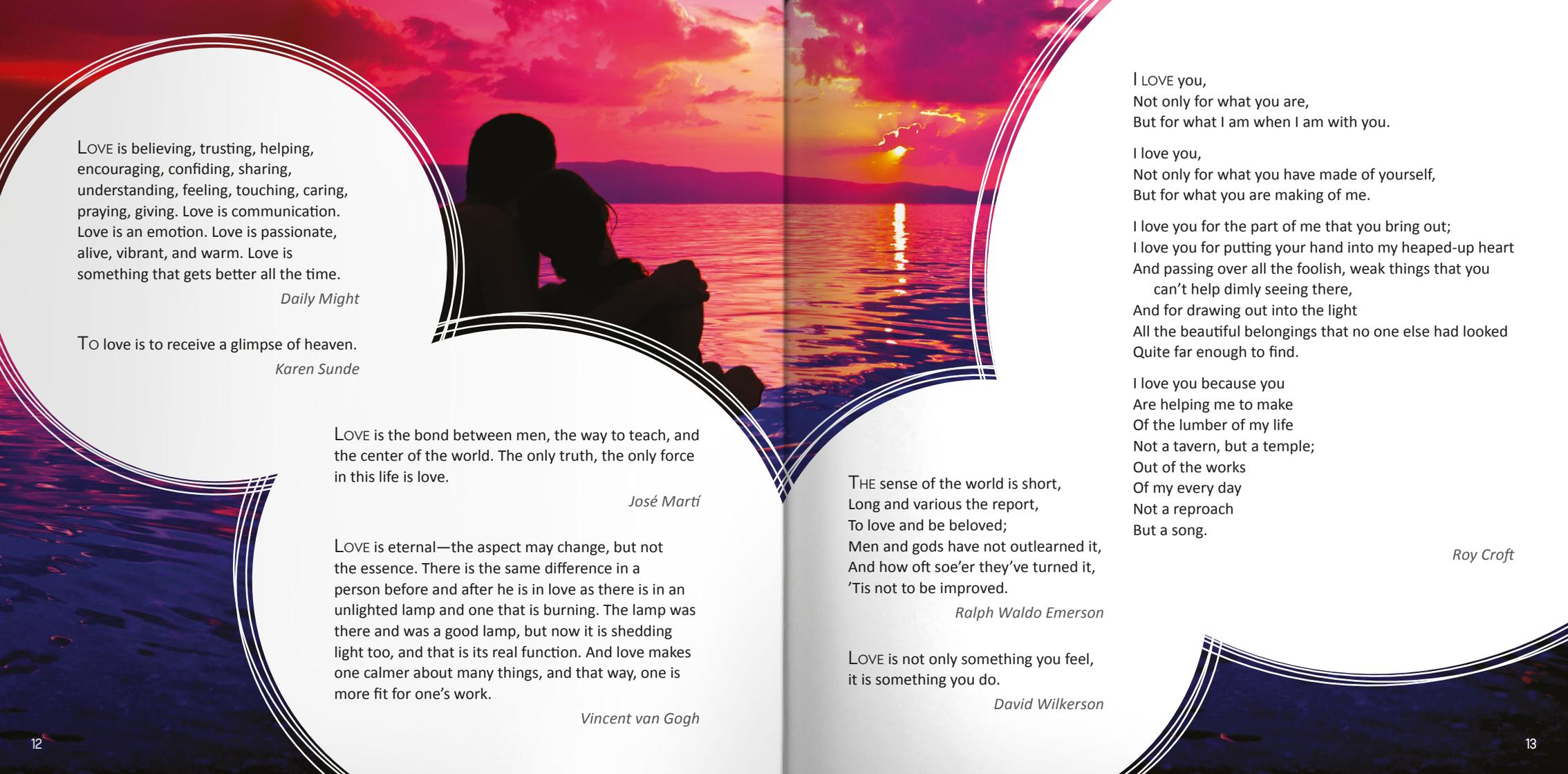
“I’ll prove it!” said the wind. “Do you see the old man down there? I bet I can get his coat off him quicker than you can!”

So the sun sighed and hid behind a cloud, and the wind blew and blew until it was almost a tornado. But the harder it blew, the tighter the old man clutched his coat to him. Finally, the wind gave up and calmed down.

Then the sun came out from behind the cloud and smiled kindly on the old man. After only a short while, the man mopped his brow and pulled off his coat.

The sun had shown the wind that warmth and kindness were stronger than fury and force.

From Aesop’s Fables



LOVE is believing, trusting, helping, encouraging, confiding, sharing, understanding, feeling, touching, caring, praying, giving. Love is communication. Love is an emotion. Love is passionate, alive, vibrant, and warm. Love is something that gets better all the time.

Daily Might

To love is to receive a glimpse of heaven.

Karen Sunde

LOVE is the bond between men, the way to teach, and the center of the world. The only truth, the only force in this life is love.

José Martí

LOVE is eternal—the aspect may change, but not the essence. There is the same difference in a person before and after he is in love as there is in an unlighted lamp and one that is burning. The lamp was there and was a good lamp, but now it is shedding light too, and that is its real function. And love makes one calmer about many things, and that way, one is more fit for one's work.

Vincent van Gogh

THE sense of the world is short,
Long and various the report,
To love and be beloved;
Men and gods have not outlearned it,
And how oft soe'er they've turned it,
'Tis not to be improved.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

LOVE is not only something you feel,
it is something you do.

David Wilkerson

I LOVE you,
Not only for what you are,
But for what I am when I am with you.

I love you,
Not only for what you have made of yourself,
But for what you are making of me.

I love you for the part of me that you bring out;
I love you for putting your hand into my heaped-up heart
And passing over all the foolish, weak things that you
can't help dimly seeing there,
And for drawing out into the light
All the beautiful belongings that no one else had looked
Quite far enough to find.

I love you because you
Are helping me to make
Of the lumber of my life
Not a tavern, but a temple;
Out of the works
Of my every day
Not a reproach
But a song.

Roy Craft

A blue jay is perched on a mossy tree branch, facing right. The bird has a blue crest, a black collar around its neck, and a white breast. The background is a soft-focus, warm-toned forest scene with falling leaves or petals.

Do you ask what the birds say? The sparrow, the dove,
The linnet and thrush say, "I love and I love!"
In the winter they're silent—the wind is so strong;
What it says, I don't know, but it sings a loud song.
But green leaves, and blossoms, and sunny warm weather,
And singing, and loving—all come back together.
But the lark is so brimful of gladness and love,
The green fields below him, the blue sky above,
That he sings, and he sings; and for ever sings he—
"I love my Love, and my Love loves me!"

"Answers to a Child's Question," Samuel Taylor Coleridge

A WOMAN saw three strangers passing in front of her house and invited them in to have something to eat.

"We can't go in together," they told her.

"Why not?" she asked.

"His name is Wealth, and he is Success," one of them explained pointing to the others in turn. "I am Love. Now go in and decide with the rest of your family which one of us you want in your home."

The woman went in and explained the whole thing to her husband, who was overjoyed at the prospects. "Let's invite Wealth!"

The wife disagreed. "Why don't we invite Success? We would be the envy of everyone in town."

Their little girl overheard the discussion and piped in. "Wouldn't it be better to invite Love? Then our home will be filled with love!"

The husband and wife finally decided to heed their daughter's advice.

Wealth and Success were soon invited in by other families. Of course, they didn't stay long before moving on again. They never do.

Not so with Love. Love is forever.

And so our little family lived happily ever after.

Sure, there were a few rough spots, but they hardly noticed them. Love saw to that.

They weren't the wealthiest or most successful family in town, but they were the happiest. Love saw to that too.

Author unknown

A HOUSE is made with brick and mortar, but a home is made with love and care.

Attributed to William Ward

MONEY can build a house, but it takes love to make it a home.

Author unknown

EVERYTHING in the household runs smoothly when love oils the machinery.

Author unknown

LOVE only gives one answer, and it is YES.

To every fear that begs to be faced.

To every longing for approval, to the need to be valued.

To the heart's wish to be treasured, even with its cuts and scars showing.

Love says yes.

Author unknown

LET us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

1 John 3:18 NIV

YOU come to love not by finding the perfect person, but by seeing an imperfect person perfectly.

Sam Keen

THE art of love ... is largely the art of persistence.

Albert Ellis

LOVE means to love that which is unlovable; or it is no virtue at all.

G. K. Chesterton

WE say that grace is "unmerited favor." And

we are instructed to love as Christ loves us.

He shows us grace; we are to show each other grace. What does that mean? That means we

are to be kinder to people than what we think they deserve.

Author unknown

IMPART unto me, O God, I pray Thee, the spirit of Thy love, that I may be more anxious to give than to receive, more eager to understand than to be understood, more thoughtful for others, more forgetful of myself.

F. B. Meyer

LOVE suffers long and is kind.

When you've suffered, when others have maligned you and spoken ill of you, you're still kind and willing to forgive.

Love does not envy.

Love is not jealous of others' happiness. Love is not jealous of the good things they have or the problems they don't have. Love is happy for others when they are blessed.

Love does not parade itself, is not puffed up.

Love is humble and self-effacing. It's not proud and doesn't put others down.

Love does not behave rudely.

If you love others, you'll be courteous and considerate of their feelings.

Love does not seek its own.

Real love is unselfish and giving.

Love is not provoked, thinks no evil.

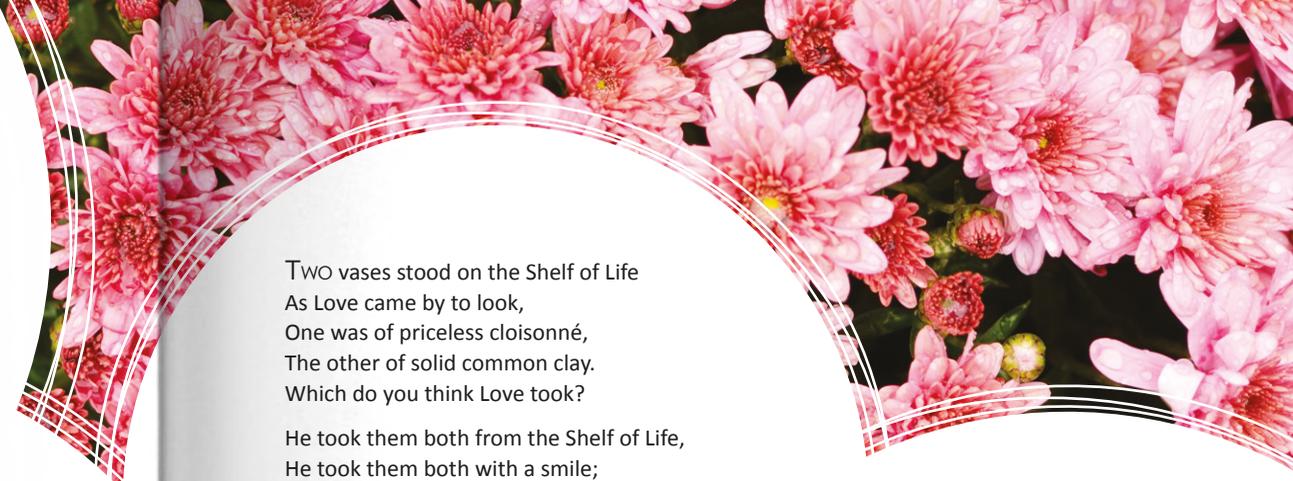
If your spirit is ruled by God's Spirit, you won't be easily angered or keep a record of wrongs committed against you, but you'll look for and find the best in people.

Love does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth.

Love stays focused on what is right and good, and casts a veil over others' faults and mistakes.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

Paraphrased from "the Bible's Love Chapter" (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)



LOVE, what does it smell like? It seems, when you're in love,
The whole world has the murmur of spring.
Dry leaves and branches laden with snow turn green
And love follows, smelling sweet as a never-fading rose.
In every place love opens unseen garlands of flowers,
In the depths of its background is poetry—laughter or sorrow—
A woman's kiss takes on the magic air of renewed life,
Like the wildflowers, bushes, and berry patches that burst forth along footpaths;
That go into the countryside from those green country lanes.
Love is the music of perfect symphonies, the words of a light breeze among the
trees that penetrate your soul.
You sigh, you cry; and the sigh and cry leave a romantic, cool freshness of
honeysuckle vines.

Juan Ramón Jiménez



LOVING can cost a lot but not loving always costs more, and
those who fear to love often find that want of love is an
emptiness that robs the joy from life.

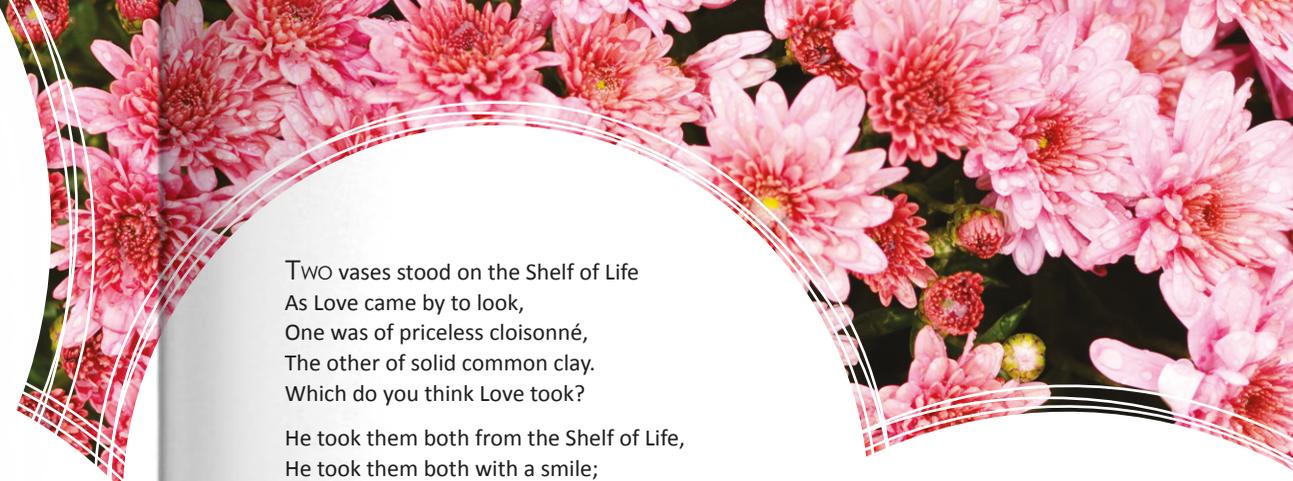
Merle Shain

TRUE love ennobles and dignifies the material labors of life;
and homely services rendered for love's sake have in them a
poetry that is immortal.

Harriet Beecher Stowe

LOVE has no uttermost, as the stars have no number and the
sea no rest.

Eleanor Farjeon



TWO vases stood on the Shelf of Life
As Love came by to look,
One was of priceless cloisonné,
The other of solid common clay.
Which do you think Love took?

He took them both from the Shelf of Life,
He took them both with a smile;
He clasped them both with his fingertips,
And touched them both with caressing lips,
And held them both for awhile.

From tired hands Love let them fall,
And never a word was spoken.
One was of priceless cloisonné,
The other of solid common clay.
Which do you think was broken?

Nan Terrel Reed

WHO has not found the heaven below
Will fail of it above.
God's residence is next to mine,
His furniture is love.

Emily Dickinson

TO love for the sake of being loved is human,
but to love for the sake of loving is angelic.

Alphonse de Lamartine

HE drew a circle that shut me out—
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.
But Love and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle that took him in!

Edwin Markham

A GROUP of social scientists asked a group of four- to eight-year-olds what love meant to them. The answers they got were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined. See what you think:

“Love is that first feeling you feel before all the bad stuff gets in the way.”

“Since my grandmother got arthritis, she can’t bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even though his hands got arthritis too. That’s love.”

“When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You know that your name is safe in their mouth.”

“Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs.”

“Love is when someone hurts you, and you get so mad but you don’t yell at them because you know it would hurt their feelings.”

“Love is what makes you smile when you’re tired.”

“Love is when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be together and talk. My mommy and daddy are like that.”

“Love is what’s in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen.”

“If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend you hate.”

“When you tell someone something bad about yourself and you’re scared they won’t love you anymore. But then you get surprised because not only do they still love you, they love you even more.”

“There are two kinds of love, our love and God’s love. But God makes both kinds.”

“Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well.”

“My mommy loves me more than anybody. You don’t see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night.”

“Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken.”

“Love is when Mommy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he’s so handsome.”

“Love is when your puppy is so glad to see you, even though you left him alone all day.”

“Love cards say stuff on them that we’d like to say ourselves, but we wouldn’t be caught dead saying.”

“You really shouldn’t say ‘I love you’ unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget.”

The Editors

EVEN the tiniest child can understand love.

Author unknown



FOLK need a lot of loving in the morning;
The day is all before, with cares beset
The cares we know, and they that give no warning;
For love is God's own antidote for fret.

Folk need a heap of loving at the noontime—
In the battle lull, the moment snatched from strife—
Halfway between the waking and the croontime,
While bickering and worriment are rife.

Folk hunger so for loving at the nighttime,
When wearily they take them home to rest—
At slumber song and turning-out-the-light time—
Of all the times for loving, that's the best.

Folk want a lot of loving every minute—
The sympathy of others and their smile!
Till life's end, from the moment they begin it,
Folks need a lot of loving all the while.

Strickland Gilligan

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

BE DEVOTED TO ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE. HONOR
ONE ANOTHER ABOVE YOURSELVES.

Romans 12:10 NIV

FINALLY, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another; be compassionate and humble.

1 Peter 3:8 NIV

In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.

Matthew 7:12 NIV

RESOLVE to make at least one person happy every day, and then in ten years you may have made three thousand, six hundred and fifty persons happy, or brightened a small town by your contribution to the fund of general enjoyment.

Sydney Smith

HELP thy brother's boat across, and lo! thine own has reached the shore.

Indian proverb

WITH all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:2–3 ESV

TREAT a man as he appears to be, and you make him worse. But treat a man as if he already were what he potentially could be, and you make him what he should be.

Johann von Goethe

BE slow to suspect—*quick to trust*;
Slow to condemn—*quick to justify*;
Slow to offend—*quick to defend*;
Slow to expose—*quick to shield*;
Slow to belittle—*quick to appreciate*;
Slow to demand—*quick to give*;
Slow to provoke—*quick to help*;
Slow to resent—*quick to forgive*.

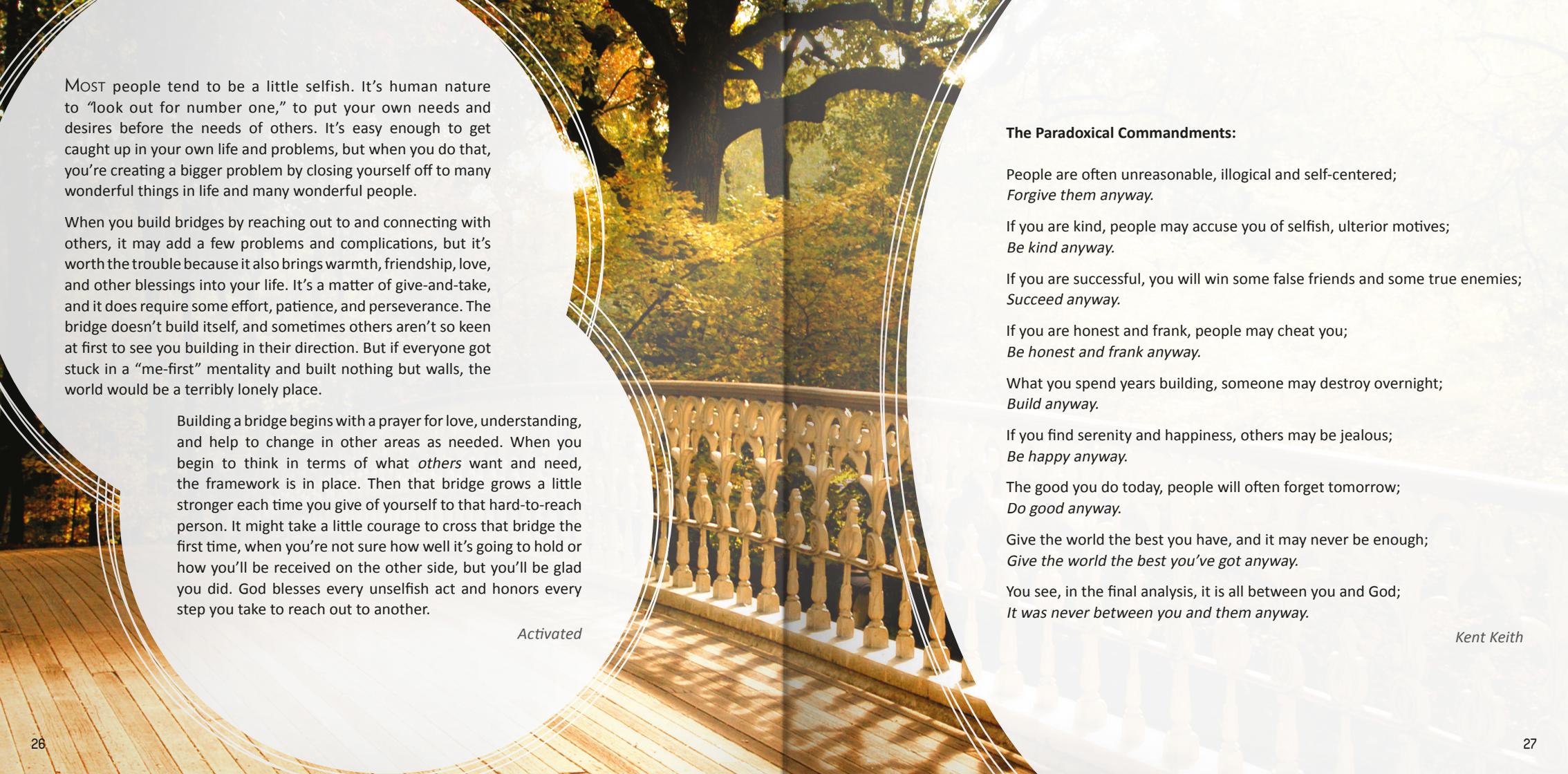
Author unknown

I ALWAYS prefer to believe the best of everybody—it saves so much time.

Rudyard Kipling

THE best thing to give to your enemy is forgiveness; to an opponent, tolerance; to a friend, your heart; to your child, a good example; to a father, deference; to your mother, conduct that will make her proud of you; to yourself, respect; to all men, charity.

Benjamin Franklin



MOST people tend to be a little selfish. It's human nature to "look out for number one," to put your own needs and desires before the needs of others. It's easy enough to get caught up in your own life and problems, but when you do that, you're creating a bigger problem by closing yourself off to many wonderful things in life and many wonderful people.

When you build bridges by reaching out to and connecting with others, it may add a few problems and complications, but it's worth the trouble because it also brings warmth, friendship, love, and other blessings into your life. It's a matter of give-and-take, and it does require some effort, patience, and perseverance. The bridge doesn't build itself, and sometimes others aren't so keen at first to see you building in their direction. But if everyone got stuck in a "me-first" mentality and built nothing but walls, the world would be a terribly lonely place.

Building a bridge begins with a prayer for love, understanding, and help to change in other areas as needed. When you begin to think in terms of what *others* want and need, the framework is in place. Then that bridge grows a little stronger each time you give of yourself to that hard-to-reach person. It might take a little courage to cross that bridge the first time, when you're not sure how well it's going to hold or how you'll be received on the other side, but you'll be glad you did. God blesses every unselfish act and honors every step you take to reach out to another.

Activated

The Paradoxical Commandments:

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered;
Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;
Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;
Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;
Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone may destroy overnight;
Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, others may be jealous;
Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;
Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;
Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is all between you and God;
It was never between you and them anyway.

Kent Keith

THE famous Spanish Baroque painter, Bartolomé Murillo had a servant named Sebastián Gómez. One day, the painter took his apprentices to study the paintings in the museum. In the meantime his servant, who also had a certain aptitude for painting, entered the studio and saw the beginnings of a painting of the Virgin perched on an easel. The servant could not resist the temptation to take a brush and add a few strokes to the painting. When Murillo returned, he immediately saw that someone had painted on his work and called for the servant, who claimed to know nothing of the act.

Murillo then said, "Well, whoever has painted this could without a doubt become a fine painter."

The servant, surprised by such a statement, then confessed, "Forgive me, Sir, it was me."

Murillo then not only forgave him, but predicted his future success as an artist. "I am happy to have produced, not only paintings, but another fine painter."

From that time on, Sebastián Gómez was no longer a servant, but rather Murillo's closest disciple and became an accomplished painter as well.

Dictionary of Anecdotes of Editorial America

LOVE cannot be wasted. It makes no difference where it is bestowed; it always brings in big returns.

Author unknown

THE force of arms is powerless when
matched against the force of love.

Author unknown

LOVE that is hoarded moulds at last
Until we know some day
The only thing we ever have
Is what we give away.
And kindness that is never used
But hidden all alone
Will slowly harden till it is
As hard as any stone.

Louis Ginsberg

WE who are strong have an obligation to
bear with the failings of the weak, and not
to please ourselves.

Romans 15:1 ESV

O GOD, when I am wrong, make me easy
to change, and when I am right, make me
easy to live with.

Author unknown

BE kind to one another, tenderhearted,
forgiving one another, even as God in Christ
forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32 NKJV

IT is better to lose an argument than lose
a friend.

Popular saying

MAY the Lord make you increase and
abound in love to one another and to all.

1 Thessalonians 3:12 NKJV

TO speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling,
to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy
toward all people.

Titus 3:2 ESV

LOVE does no harm to a neighbor; therefore
love is the fulfillment of the law.

Romans 13:10 NKJV

TRUE love doesn't consist of holding hands; it consists of holding hearts.

O.A. Battista

A CHILD'S prayer: "Dear God, make all the bad people good, and make all the good people nice."

Author unknown

DO nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Philippians 2:3–4 NIV

A CARELESS word *may kindle strife.*

A cruel word *may wreck a life.*

A bitter word *may hate instill.*

A brutal word *may smite and kill.*

A gracious word *may smooth the way.*

A joyous word *may light the day.*

A timely word *may lessen stress.*

A loving word *may heal and bless.*

Author unknown

IT is better to lose an argument than lose a friend.

Popular saying



THE Bible exhorts us to speak "the truth in love."¹ Not an easy task, considering that many times we vent our feelings impatiently, with irritation, and the words that flow are harsh and reflect inner frustrations. It takes restraint to quietly ask God to season our words with grains of kindness and consideration. When we try to see those we are interacting with through His eyes, our words will naturally take on a more sensitive ring. "A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of."²

Someone wisely said, "Truth without love wounds; truth with love heals." There are words that kill and words that give life. "The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing."³

The level of verbal aggressiveness has reached such a critical level today, partly because of the misuse of online social networks, where it is taken very lightly, and even applauded, when someone is able to "cut down" verbally anyone who takes a different side. To speak the truth in love takes more time and thought. But it is well worth the effort: "Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness."⁴

The Editors

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1. Ephesians 4:15
 2. Luke 6:45 NIV
 3. Proverbs 12:18 NIV
 4. James 3:18 NIV



WHEREVER there is a human being, there is a chance for kindness.

Seneca

A SINGLE act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees. The greatest work that kindness does to others is that it makes them kind themselves.

Amelia Earhart

A GOOD deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship; he who plants kindness gathers love.

Basil of Caesarea

WISE sayings often fall on barren ground; but a kind word is never thrown away.

Sir Arthur Helps

BE kind. Remember that everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.

Harry Thompson

BENEVOLENCE is not tolerance of indecency, or conformity with incompetence, but rather a show of good will.

Antonio Machado

A SOLDIER, worn out from his country's service, took to earning his living by playing the violin on the streets of Vienna in exchange for the coins dropped into his hat. After a while, his hands became feeble and trembling, and he could barely play a rusty tune.

One day, while he sat there despondently, a man came along and said, "My friend, you are too old and too feeble; give me your violin." He began to play an enchanting tune, and the coins poured in until the hat was full.

"Now," said the man who was playing the violin, "put those coins in your pocket." And as he held out his hat again, the violinist played on as the crowd gathered and grew; and again the hat was filled with coins.

Then the violinist returned the instrument and walked on. The whisper went around, "Who is it? Who is it?" and someone just entering the crowd said, "Why, that is Alexandre Boucher, the great violinist, known in all the courts of royalty."

The artist had taken that man's place, assumed his poverty, borne his burden, played his music, and earned his livelihood. He put himself in the place of the poor old man.

Author unknown



KINDNESS is twice blessed; it blesses him who gives and him who takes.

Popular saying

GOOD intentions are fine, but they are as light as soap bubbles if not followed by the effort to convert them into realities.

Gaspar Melchor of Jovellanos

KINDNESS in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love.

Laozi

GOOD words and good manners open doors.

Spanish saying

KINDNESS gives birth to kindness.

Sophocles

I WOULD go to the deeps a hundred times to cheer a downcast spirit. It is good for me to have been afflicted, that I might know how to speak a word in season to one that is weary.

Charles Spurgeon



If I have wounded any soul today,
If I have caused one foot to go astray,
If I have walked in my own willful way, Good Lord, forgive.

If I have uttered idle words or vain,
If I have turned aside from want or pain,
Lest I offend some other through the strain,
Good Lord, forgive.

Forgive the sins I have confessed to Thee.
Forgive the secret sins I do not see.
That which I know not, Father, teach Thou me
—Help me to live.

C. Maud Battersby



UNTIL you have learned to be tolerant with those who do not always agree with you; until you have cultivated the habit of saying some kind word of those whom you do not admire; until you have formed the habit of looking for the good instead of the bad there is in others, you will be neither successful nor happy.

Napoleon Hill



How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday in life, you will have been all of these.

George Washington Carver

If you judge people, you have no time to love them.

Mother Teresa

RESPECT your fellow human beings, treat them fairly, disagree with them honestly, enjoy their friendship, explore your thoughts about one another candidly, work together for a common goal and help one another achieve it. No destructive lies. No ridiculous fears. No debilitating anger.

Bill Bradley

AN elderly man moved into a community where a notoriously disagreeable and contentious neighbor lived.

When informed of the character of his neighbor, the old man answered, "If he disturbs me, I'll kill him." His statement reached the ears of the villainous neighbor who in various ways tormented the new settler. But every offense was met with kindness until at last the contentious neighbor was overwhelmed.

"I was told that he would kill me, but I did not know he would do it this way."

Author unknown

LOVE Is SERVICE

BY LOVE SERVE ONE ANOTHER.

GALATIANS 5:13



THE glory of life
Is to love, not to be loved;
To serve, not to be served;
To be a strong hand in the dark
To another in the time of need;
To be a cup of strength to any soul
In a crisis of weakness.
That is to know the glory of life.

Author unknown

DO all the good you can, in all the ways you can, to all the souls
you can, in every place you can, at all the times you can, with all
the zeal you can, as long as ever you can.

Attributed to John Wesley

REAL love is not known for what it requires, but for what it gives.

Jacinto Benavente

LOVE without sacrifice, muscle without exercise.

Popular saying

IN the Louvre in Paris, there is a famous painting by Murillo. It is entitled "The Miracle of San Diego." A door opens, and two noblemen and a priest enter a kitchen. They are amazed to find that all the kitchen maids are angels. One is handling a water pot, another a joint of meat, a third a basket of vegetables, a fourth is tending the fire. The message of the picture is that no labor is common unless we make it so. Jesus Christ Himself toiled in a carpenter's workshop.

Author unknown

THERE are innumerable benefits to freely doing acts of love and kindness. Though it is true that we live in a materialistic world and we need to receive payment in order to fulfill our many obligations, it is good for us to do frequent favors without expecting retribution. We can perform a service for the simple pleasure of helping someone in need. Maybe we don't have a big bank account, but there is always something that we can give—starting with a bit of ourselves. And when we lend a hand, it is a "win-win" situation. Not only does the other person benefit, but we ourselves receive a blessing. Let's do ourselves a favor by helping someone without expecting anything in return. It will do our soul good, as this story by Lee Sharpe relates:

I was just a kid. One spring day, Father called me to go with him to Old Man Trussel's blacksmith shop. He had left a rake and a hoe to be repaired. There they were, fixed like new. Father handed over a silver dollar for the repairing, but Mr. Trussel refused to take it. "No," he said, "there's no charge for that little job."

But Father insisted that he take the pay, still extending to him the dollar. If I live a thousand years, I'll never forget that great man's reply, "Ed, can't you let a man do something now and then—just to stretch his soul?"

That short but big sermon from the lips of the humble blacksmith has caused me to find, again and again, the great joy and quiet happiness which comes from a little "stretching of the soul."

The Editors

DO something for somebody everyday for which you do not get paid.

Albert Schweitzer

YOU must remember to love people and use things, rather than love things and use people.

Fulton Sheen

ATTENTIVE people look for ways to attend.

Spanish saying

YOU can easily judge the character of others by how they treat those who they think can do nothing for them.

Malcolm Forbes

YOU can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.

Amy Carmichael

THE only way we can erase unkindness is with kindness. Don't lose the eraser.

Author unknown

WHATEVER we become here in mortality is meaningless unless it is done for the benefit of others. Our gifts and talents are given to us to help us serve. And in serving others we grow spiritually. We are here to help each other, to care for each other, to understand, forgive, and serve one another. We are here to have love for every person born on earth.

Betty Eadie

I SLEPT and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted, and behold, service was joy.

Rabindranath Tagore

SYMPATHY sees and says, "I'm sorry." Compassion feels and whispers, "I'll help."

Author unknown

GOD cares for people through people.

Author unknown

BEFORE you go to sleep at night, think about My love for you. If you'll count your blessings, you'll see how I have blessed you in so many ways, through so many things and so many people. Each of these is a token of My great love for you personally.

I ask that you also think about how much love you have given. What did you do today to show love to others, so they too could be touched by My love? If you followed the leading of your heart, that little nudge I gave you each time I put an opportunity to show love in your path, you were also touched by My love. You can't give love without receiving a touch of My love in return. That's why it can be truly said that it is more blessed to give than to receive, that more love is found in giving love than in receiving love. If others don't return your love, I repay; and if they do, you receive doubly, from them and from Me.

How much love do you give? Remember that I have no mouth but yours and no hands but yours to touch others' hearts and draw them to Me. Give and it shall be given to you. As much as you have done it to others, you have done it to Me.

Jesus

LORD, help me live from day to day
In such a self-forgetful way
That even when I kneel to pray
My prayer shall be for others.

Help me in all the work I do
To ever be sincere and true
And know that all I'd do for You
Must needs be done for others.

Let self be crucified and slain
And buried deep, and all in vain
May efforts be to rise again,
Unless to live for others.

And when my work on earth is done,
And my new work in Heaven's begun,
May I forget the crown I've won,
While thinking still of others.

Others, Lord, yes others,
Let this my motto be,
Help me to live for others,
That I may live like Thee.

Charles Meigs

FRIENDSHIP

**TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE, BECAUSE THEY HAVE A GOOD
RETURN FOR THEIR LABOR: IF EITHER OF THEM FALLS
DOWN, ONE CAN HELP THE OTHER UP.**

ECCLESIASTES 4:9-10 NIV

A GOOD friend is someone with whom we have no secrets, and yet still appreciates us.

León Daudí

SHOW genuine love and concern for people, and you won't have a hard time winning friends. People can't help but be drawn to a person with a loving demeanor. People who like others are people others like. When you follow the Golden Rule, "In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you,"¹ people will be drawn to you like bees to honey. Sooner or later, they'll respond in kind. That's one of the perks of knowing and loving Jesus and of following His Golden Rule.

Shannon Shayler

WOUNDS from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

Proverbs 27:6 NIV

A FRIEND loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Proverbs 17:17 ESV

SWEETNESS of a friend comes from his earnest counsel.

Proverbs 27:9 ESV

1. Matthew 7:12 NIV

THE only way to have a friend is to be one.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

WHOEVER would foster love covers over an offense, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.

Proverbs 17:9 NIV

A MAN of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Proverbs 18:24 ESV

IF you have a friend worth loving,
Love him. Yes, and let him know
That you love him, ere life's evening
Tinge his brow with sunset glow.
Why should good words ne'er be said
Of a friend—till he is dead?

Author unknown

TREAT your friends like a bank account—refrain from drawing too heavily on either.

Samuel Johnson

I WILL speak ill of no man, and speak all the good I know of everybody.

Benjamin Franklin

A TRUE friend ...

... thinks you're a good egg—even though you might be slightly cracked.
... will continue to talk to you over the back fence even though he knows he's missing his favorite TV program.
... sticks up for you even when you're not there.
... listens to your deepest hurts, & feels that they are his too.
... will tell you when you have spinach stuck in your teeth.
... will not obstruct your way unless he feels you are going downhill.

Compilation of popular sayings

OH, the comfort—
the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person—
having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words,
but pouring them all right out,
just as they are,
chaff and grain together;
certain that a faithful hand will take and sift them,
keep what is worth keeping,
and then with the breath of kindness blow the rest away.

Dinah Craik

THERE are only two people who can tell you the truth about yourself—an enemy who has lost his temper and a friend who loves you dearly.

Antisthenes

WE all like to have friends, but often need help ourselves in being, well—*friendly*. If you would like to cultivate qualities that will make people feel at ease and glad to be around you, here are some tips to get you started:

Be polite and courteous.

As St. Basil observed, “He who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love.”

Smile.

A sincere smile disarms the guarded, soothes the argumentative, calms the angry, and encourages the downhearted. It sets a positive tone.

Be optimistic.

Everyone has enough problems already. People are drawn to upbeat, solution-oriented people.

Be sociable.

If you’re shy or withdrawn, focusing on making the other person feel accepted and at ease will help you to be less self-conscious.

Be respectful.

It’s easy to respect people whom you have a lot in common with, but respecting others’ right to think and be different is even more important, as well as more endearing.

Keep an open mind.

Along the same lines, everyone has a right to an opinion. Few arguments are worth winning at the cost of a friendship.

Look for the good in others.

Everyone has at least a few admirable qualities. Focus on finding those, rather than finding fault.

Be vocal about others’ good qualities.

Everyone needs to know that his or her good qualities are noticed and appreciated. Be generous, sincere, and specific with your compliments.

Lighten up.

A person with a good sense of humor is fun to be around. Just be sure your humor doesn’t come at someone else’s expense.

Be humble.

Proud, self-promoting people are a pain to be around. Humility is winsome; pride is woeful.

Be a good listener.

One of the best ways to show people you care about them is by taking an interest in what they have to say and making an effort to understand and empathize.

Be gracious when others make mistakes.

Everybody messes up sometimes. Remember the Golden Rule: Treat others as you would have them treat you.

Activated





TOLSTOY, the great Russian writer, was passing along a street one day when a beggar stopped him and pleaded for alms. The great Russian searched through his pockets for a coin, but finding none he regretfully said, “Please don’t be angry with me, my brother, but I have nothing with me. If I did, I would gladly give it to you.”

The beggar’s face lit up, and he said, “You have given me more than I asked for. You have called me brother.”

Author unknown

SOMETIMES being a friend means mastering the art of timing. There is a time for silence. A time to let go and allow people to hurl themselves into their own destiny. And a time to pick up the pieces when it’s all over.

Gloria Naylor

I’VE sometimes wondered what my actions would be if I were in a situation where I could save a life by giving my own; but of course I know it’s not so likely that I’ll ever be tested in such a dramatic way. The challenges I’m likely to face are more prosaic, and the opportunities for “laying down my life” that come my way are more mundane.

Do I hang out with my friend who’s going through a rough patch and isn’t particularly fun to be around at that time, or do I make excuses and try to avoid him? Do I visit my friend when she’s sick—not just once at the beginning, but regularly, if needed? If I got a ticket to a big game, but my friend didn’t, would I be willing to give it to him? When my friend gets an incredible work or vacation opportunity, am I genuinely happy and excited for her, or am I jealous of her good fortune? When my friends’ choices of restaurants or activities are different from what I would have liked, do I always expect them to accommodate my wishes?

Opportunities like these for “unexciting” sacrifices come up on a daily basis and are more valid tests of my character than hypothetical life-and-death drama. I’ve certainly not arrived yet, but I would like to try harder to be the kind of friend who, like the Bible says, “loves at all times.”¹

Samuel Keating

1. Proverbs 17:17 NKJV

WHEN a feller hasn't got a cent
And is feelin' kind of blue,
And the clouds hang thick and dark
And won't let the sunshine thro',
It's a great thing, oh my brethren,
For a feller just to lay
His hand upon your shoulder In a friendly sort o' way.

It makes a men feel queerish,
It makes the tear drops start
And you kind o' feel a flutter
In the region of your heart.
You can't look up and meet his eye,
You don't know what to say
When a hand is on your shoulder in a friendly sort o' way.

Oh, this world's a curious compound
With its honey and its gall;
Its cares and bitter crosses,
But a good world after all.
And a good God must have made it,
Leastwise that is what I say,
When a hand is on your shoulder in a friendly sort o' way.

Author unknown

CHRIST TEACHES US TO LOVE

A NEW COMMANDMENT I GIVE TO YOU, THAT
YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER: JUST AS I HAVE LOVED
YOU, YOU ALSO ARE TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

JOHN 13:34 ESV

AN expert in the Mosaic law, God's law for His people in Old Testament times, tested Jesus by asking, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" To which Jesus replied, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."¹

In some ways, God's law of love is a stricter code of ethics than the old Mosaic laws. The Ten Commandments taught basic morals to distinguish between good and bad in an attempt to rein in evil. Under the law of love, much more is required—to have love and mercy. This godly love is actually a much higher ideal to aspire to. Imagine, Jesus went so far as to say that we should love our enemies, pray for them, and forgive them!²

In fact, the law of love is so much more difficult to keep that it's *humanly* impossible. This kind of love is only possible through the supernatural love of God, which we find in Jesus. Love should be the main motivation for every Christian's actions, with God's love being manifested in caring deeds to help meet others' physical and spiritual needs. "The love of Christ compels us."³

The Editors

THE entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Galatians 5:14 NIV

CARRY each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2 NIV

1. Matthew 22:35–40 NIV 3. 2 Corinthians 5:14 NKJV
2. See Matthew 5:38–44.

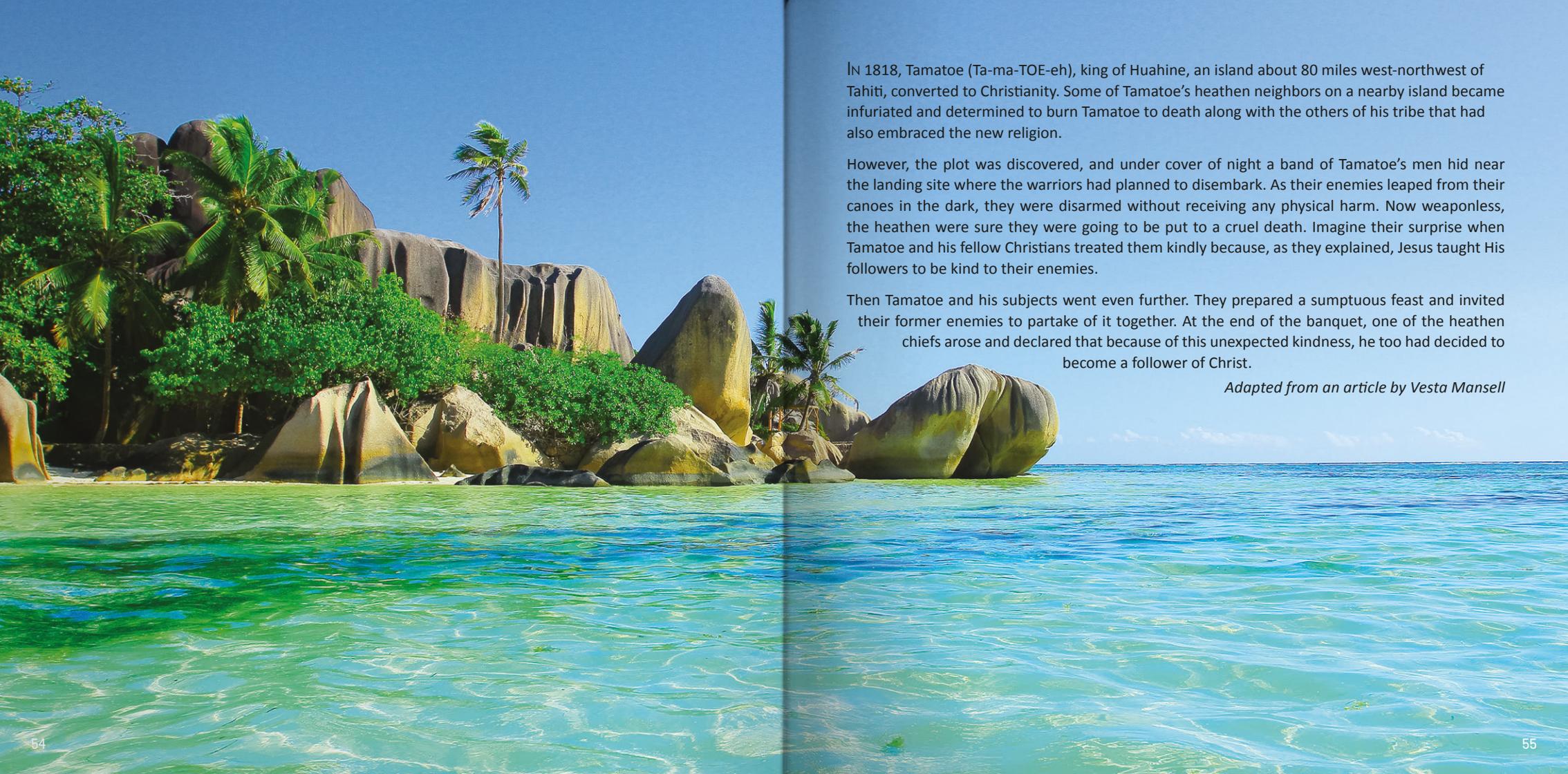
It is interesting to think of the new era of love which Jesus opened. Of course there was gentleness in the world before He came. There was mother-love. There was friendship, deep, true, and tender. There were lovers who were bound together with most sacred ties. There were hearts even among heathen people in which there was gentleness almost beautiful enough for heaven. Yet the world at large was full of cruelty. The rich oppressed the poor. The strong crushed the weak. Women were slaves, and men were tyrants. There was no hand of love reached out to help the sick, the lame, the blind, the old, the deformed, the insane, nor any to care for the widow, the orphan, the homeless.

Then Jesus came; and for three and thirty years He went about among men, doing kind things. He had a gentle heart, and gentleness flowed out in His speech. He spoke words which throbbed with tenderness. ... There was never any uncertainty about the heartbeat in the words which fell from the lips of Jesus. They throbbed with sympathy and tenderness. The people knew always that Jesus was their friend. His life was full of rich helpfulness. No wrong or cruelty ever made Him ungentle. He scattered kindness wherever He moved.

One day they nailed those gentle hands upon a cross. ... It was a sore loss to the poor and the sad, and there must have been grief in many a household. But while the personal ministry of Jesus was ended by His death, the influence of His life went on. He had set the world a new example of love. He had taught lessons of patience and meekness, which no other teacher has ever given. He had imparted new meaning to human affection; He made love the law of His kingdom.

Wherever the gospel has gone, these sayings of the great Teacher have been carried and have fallen into people's hearts, leaving there their blessings of gentleness [and love].

J. R. Miller



In 1818, Tamatoe (Ta-ma-TOE-eh), king of Huahine, an island about 80 miles west-northwest of Tahiti, converted to Christianity. Some of Tamatoe's heathen neighbors on a nearby island became infuriated and determined to burn Tamatoe to death along with the others of his tribe that had also embraced the new religion.

However, the plot was discovered, and under cover of night a band of Tamatoe's men hid near the landing site where the warriors had planned to disembark. As their enemies leaped from their canoes in the dark, they were disarmed without receiving any physical harm. Now weaponless, the heathen were sure they were going to be put to a cruel death. Imagine their surprise when Tamatoe and his fellow Christians treated them kindly because, as they explained, Jesus taught His followers to be kind to their enemies.

Then Tamatoe and his subjects went even further. They prepared a sumptuous feast and invited their former enemies to partake of it together. At the end of the banquet, one of the heathen chiefs arose and declared that because of this unexpected kindness, he too had decided to become a follower of Christ.

Adapted from an article by Vesta Mansell

ONCE told My followers, “Do to others what you would have them do to you.”¹ So many problems would be solved if people would live by that simple rule. Not only is it the right thing to do, but it’s the smart thing to do. When you do it—even when it’s to your own hurt at first—it eventually comes back to you in the form of more love and other good things in your own life.

When you build your life and character on treating people the way you want to be treated, it’s inevitable that they will return the favor by treating you with respect and kindness. But it starts with you.

You have opportunities every day to spread goodwill. You face choices every day in which you can either do what is best for yourself or best for someone else. Sometimes it can be difficult to do the right thing, especially when the person you’re dealing with hasn’t done right to you. You may not feel others deserve to be treated with love and kindness or that they are worth the sacrifice, but I didn’t say, “Do to others as they do to you.” My code for living is far above that normal perception of fairness.

I want you to live on a higher plane. Anyone can be nice to those who are nice, but the person who can be nice to those who *aren’t* is the bigger person and more blessed by Me.

Jesus

JESUS called his disciples to him and said, “I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way.”

Matthew 15:32 NIV

1. Matthew 7:12 NIV

If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that.

And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full.

But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Luke 6:32–36 NIV

JESUS knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

John 13:1

CHRIST has no body now on earth but yours,
No hands but yours,
No feet but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which to look out,
Christ’s compassion to the world.
Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good;
Yours are the hands with which He is to bless men now.

Teresa of Ávila



LET'S let God's love shine through us more and be manifested in more forgiveness, understanding, communication, sharing, support, sympathy, affection, and practical, loving, caring action!

Let's give of our time. Let's be a listening ear. Let's open our hearts and lives to others. Let's be swift to forgive and forget. Let's do our best to be our brother's keeper. Let's not hold back the simple affection that so wonderfully communicates His love. Let's try with all our hearts to set a good example. Let's be a strong shoulder to lean on or cry on. Let's not jump to conclusions or judge unfairly, but instead give the benefit of the doubt to those who are struggling. Let's bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill God's supreme law: love. Let's all strive to be examples of God's unconditional love.

Maria Fontaine

JESUS rose from supper. He ... poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ...

When he had washed their feet ... he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

John 13:4-5,12-15,17 ESV

THE LOVE OF GOD

I HAVE LOVED THEE WITH AN
EVERLASTING LOVE.

JEREMIAH 31:3

GOD'S love extends to every person. Ever since He created human beings, He has loved them. No matter where they stand with Him, He loves them. They may not believe He exists; they may believe He exists but hate Him; they may want nothing to do with Him; but nevertheless, He loves them. His love, kindness, and care are given to them by virtue of their being part of humanity.

Human beings were created in God's image. He loves every single one of us, and His love for us translates into loving action on His part—His care and blessings given to humankind.

God's love for all humankind is most clearly seen in His answer to our need for salvation. Every person falls short,¹ and that's why we need help in order to be reconciled to God. God, because of His love for each of us, brought forth the plan of salvation by which Jesus came to earth, lived a sinless life, and died, taking our sins upon Himself, thus making amends for us.

Peter Amsterdam

GOD so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 NIV

HEREIN is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us.

1 John 4:10

1. See Romans 3:23.

BEHOLD what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God.

1 John 3:1 NKJV

GOD does not love us because of our worth; we have worth because God loves us.

Fulton Sheen

IF God would take your lump of clay and remodel it, He would not do it because He is more powerful, but because He loves you.

James Conway

THE real measure of love is that God loves us beyond measure.

Author unknown

I AM sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38–39 ESV

WE have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

1 John 4:16 ESV

I DON'T love you for what you are or what you aren't. I don't love you for who you are. I don't love you for how much you do or how well you do it. I don't love you for how little you sin and mess up, or for how much you do the right thing. I simply love you—no strings attached. That truth may be hard to grasp, but once you do, everything in your life will take on new meaning and new depth, a new reality. You are complete because you are loved. You are free because you are loved. You are able to love others truly because you are loved completely and unconditionally.

I didn't decide to love you based on your love for Me, or on what you do for Me. I loved you before there was any of that, before you took your first breath.

I love it when you tell Me you love Me and when you put that love into action by drawing close to Me in prayer. I love how you love Me and want to please Me, but even when that wanes or gets crowded out by the affairs of life, My love for you is unchanged. My love for you never lessens, and I am never too busy for you.

Jesus

If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

Jesus, John 14:23

WHEN He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

Matthew 9:36 NKJV

GREATER love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

Jesus, John 15:13; 10:11



You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, that you through his poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8:9 NIV

I PRAY that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge

Ephesians 3:17–19 NIV

I FEEL the arms of God around me, as I lay on my bed at night. Asleep, I feel the Angel's touch—I'm surrounded and held tight. I don't know why it is, that God should love me so, that He would send His only Son, to hang there on Death-row.

He guards me night and day, always bringing love and hope. Somehow, I know I will survive, for He will help me cope.

As a father has compassion on his child, so my Lord has compassion on me. I know I can count on Him—There is nowhere from His love I want to flee.

Helena Fehr

THESE are a few of the words that come to mind when I think about Jesus' love for each of us: perfect, free, unconditional, everlasting.

His love is perfect.

It is the only thing in the world that is absolutely perfect. There are a lot of things that are nice, beautiful, and wonderful, but nothing is perfect like His love. We live in an imperfect world, with imperfect humans, in imperfect conditions, but His love is what makes it possible for us to weather everything that life brings our way. He is perfect, and so is His love.

His love is unconditional.

He doesn't only love us through the good times. He doesn't just love us when we're happy, progressing in the school of life, or making a positive difference in the lives of others. He loves us when we're up and when we're down. He loves us when we're well and when we're sick. He loves us when we do things worthy of His praise, and He loves us even when we do things that sadden Him. To think that there isn't even one condition to His love is truly amazing!

Being confident in how much Jesus loves you won't just make you happier; it will be a stabilizing force in your life. When you're assured of His love for you, when you trust and believe in it, then that knowledge will steady and give you peace, even when you face disappointments, heartbreaks, difficulties, or anything else that life sends your way. His love is strong enough to see you through anything. It's durable, dependable, and forever!

Maria Fontaine

His love is free.

It's not something that we have to work for or earn or somehow prove that we're worthy of. That's a good thing too, because we all sin and make mistakes. If we had to earn Jesus' love, none of us would have it, because we're all men and women of similar weaknesses and human frailties. Jesus, in His divine foresight and wisdom, knew this and chose to love us with no strings attached.

His love is everlasting.

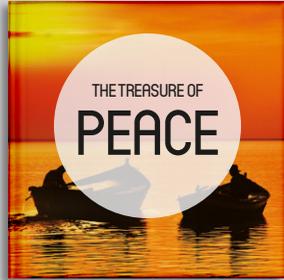
It's not something that will be here one day and gone the next. Jesus' love will not expire or fade. It can't be stolen or forfeited. It doesn't get old with the times or go out of style. It's traditional and historic, but also modern and current. It's always. Even before we knew Him, He loved us. He has loved us from the very beginning of time, and He will love us throughout eternity.

AFTERWORD

It could be that love has been elusive. Or possibly, it knocked on your door, but due to the pressures and demands of life, you didn't open. Maybe you had it and then lost it. Maybe it was growing within your heart, but familiarity, selfishness, carelessness, indifference, fear, or timidity choked it until it shriveled away. Maybe it is faintly beating in your heart now, and you wish to strengthen the pulse. Whatever your experience is, it is never too late for love. It is never too late to hear the call and open your heart.

As Tolstoy wrote, "where love is, God is." In fact it is hard to separate the two, because God is love—the very Spirit of Love. When you call out to Him, He is always near. If you would like the strength to love, even in the most trying conditions, just ask Jesus, the man who *was* love and went everywhere spreading that love, to enter into your heart and transform you into a warm and caring person. You can do so by praying this prayer:

Thank You, Jesus, for Your free gift of eternal life. Please forgive me for my faults and lacks, come into my heart, fill me with Your love and kindness, and help me grow in being considerate and concerned about the needs of those around me. Amen.



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When looking for answers, we often forget the simple solution of love. While this world is traveling down an uncertain path, love gives us guidance. It is the nucleus of everything beautiful. Where there is love, there is trust, generosity, and faith. Where love is, there God is.

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