

TOTAL MARRIAGE FITNESS

A Heart of Love
1 John 4:7-13

And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Matthew 22:37-40

Why do these commands sound strange to us?

When God talks about love,
he uses the language of _____.

When we talk about love,
We use the language of _____.

"attraction junkies" -

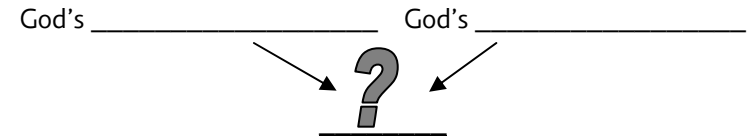
But, of course, ceasing to be 'in love' need not mean ceasing to love. Love in the second sense – love as distinct from 'being in love' is not merely a feeling. It is a deep unity, maintained by the will and deliberately strengthened by habit; reinforced by (in Christian marriages) the grace which both parents ask, and receive, from God. They can have this love for each other even at those moments when they do not like each other; as you love yourself even when you do not like yourself. They can retain this love even when each would easily, if they allowed themselves, be 'in love' with someone else. 'Being in love' first moved them to promise fidelity: this quieter love enables them to keep the promise.

C.S. Lewis

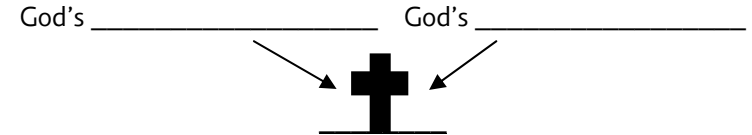
GOSPEL LOVE

1. Love is _____ (7-8)

"for love is from God ... God is love."



2. Love is _____ (9-12)



3. Love is _____ (13-14)

... and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Romans 5:5

1 Peter 2:21-3:9

Gospel love is ...

_____ (It takes sin seriously.)

_____ (It enters another's _____.)

_____ (It is costly.)

_____ (It changes us.)