



How Long Will Your Love Last?

I've got to say, many people wonder, question, even frantically quiz one another on this one question – how long will our love last? *I suppose that every man, woman and aspiring lover has turned and twisted into the knots of concern over how long love will last.* Why not? It's perfectly normal to wonder this, especially when loved ones seem to drop like proverbial flies. So and so just got divorced. Did you hear, "he just left her?" "They just broke up, for the third time. I think this time it's final." "He is so mean to her." "She never stops yelling." These, and so many more examples are rampant throughout the highways



of our emotional travels. You may not want to hear them, but they are everywhere, lurking, waiting, ready to pounce when you least expect it. How long will *YOUR* love last? Man is capable of love, but seldom is he really good at it. He tries – for sure. But trying or practicing does not make you successful. You have to understand the basic principles of what it is you are involved with. And, you have to practice what is right. Then, and only then, can you achieve love.

Have you ever loved, and failed? You know, given it all you could give, only to be shaken back to the reality that the love you experienced was not another's? It was only yours. We do this all the time. *We get caught up in fantasies, thinking that our favorite other is in love with us just as much as we with him or her.* Instead, this person is the one who isn't returning the phone calls, the gestures, the gifts, and the love. He is only concerned with his life. She is only concerned with her career. Then, when it's all over, you feel as if you have lost yet another. You feel as if you don't know the first thing about the drama of love, the stage, the playing field, and the passion. But

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is it you? Are you the one at fault? Are you the one causing this “love” to end instead of last?

Do you want to know if your love will last? Do you want to experience lasting love, something that will carry you through life’s ever-churning storms, over or around life’s rocky paths, and through any tempest seemed mounted up against you like the floods of the mighty Niagara? Then you have to know one thing:

Love without communication isn’t love at all. Love can’t exist without communication.

What is the one thing that love must have to survive? Without this one thing, there will be no love. What is it? It’s communication with each other. I know of no other place to get real live answers to real life problems, including this subject of

“lasting love,” than God’s Word.

To the chief Musician upon Shoshannim, for the sons of Korah, Maschil, A Song of loves. My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer. (Psalms 45:1)

If you are going to have love songs, you’ve got to have some speaking from your heart. You must learn to allow your love to bubble up and out from your heart!

I marvel at those who speak of love, yet can’t muster kind words to their loved-one. I marvel at relationships bespeaking love, yet the couple no longer gently speaks. ***I marvel at lover-wanna-be’s who have not yet realized the need to communicate with others.*** Theirs is a sensual pleasure, and certainly

love is nowhere present. Until a man and a woman learn to talk to each other, they will not be able to love each other. They will not be able to enjoy their relationship. They will not be able to rest in the sanctity and security of love.

I’d like to show you the most foundational verses on love.

And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour

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as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. (Mark 12:28-31)

Jesus taught the people that the most important act of love must always be directed towards God. It must be directed with one's whole heart, soul, mind and strength. It is called the "first commandment." Then he taught the people the second, to love people like you love yourself. Nothing is greater than these two commandments.

But what is involved in this kind of love? This kind of love brings forth and causes to issue the greatest form of communication a man can muster. Love isn't realized in this greatest sense unless there is communication.

Can you imagine loving God with your heart without talking to Him?

Can you imagine loving God with your whole soul without sharing it with Him? Can you imagine loving

God with our whole mind without speaking your thoughts to Him? Can you imagine loving God with your whole strength without communicating it to Him? I can't and I really hope you can't either!

How about loving your neighbor without communicating? It would be impossible. Several years ago, I wrote an Artios series on the subject of each of these words in the first commandment. *[See from September 1996 through February 1997 - four issues]* Take the time to read it for it will give you the research background to understand the focus of heart, soul, mind and strength. But, one thing I didn't teach in that article was the fact that, without communication, you can't have love.

You married folks know this most certainly. Wives, if you don't talk with your husband, for one thing, he doesn't know you, and for another, you don't show your love

to him. And, don't tell me that yelling at him, picking on him, bringing up his shortcomings, is communications. Husbands, if you don't talk with your wife, she doesn't know you either. In fact, she will never know you if you don't start opening your mouth and sharing your life with her. And, just because you rule with a heavy hand via your words, this doesn't mean you are communicating with her.

Recently, my wife and I were just stirring on a beautiful new day when we volleyed a few fun phrases about some of the things coming up that day. Nothing important. In fact, they were things that other people never hear. She said something about the flowers that needed to be planted. I said something about all the things that I needed to do that day. She said something about the type of flowers that she wanted to buy. I said something about how I felt and mumbled something yet

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again of a personal nature. Again, nothing important. We both had smiles on our faces and in our hearts. Just things, open things, free things, uninhibited things.

Then I wondered how many people do this today. I felt that an honest answer would be far too few. I thought that I might end up being shocked with a real dose of “un-love” if I had the real answer. My wife and I talk all the time, often about really silly and mundane things. I’m not saying that my wife is mundane. I’m saying that others would find a great lack of entertainment in what we have to say to each other. I remember that, since years ago, we used to sit and laugh with each other. Just sit and laugh. People would simply wonder; but we wouldn’t. It was our form of communication.

If you don’t communicate openly and honestly,

mundanely, or otherwise, you don’t love.

I’ve had friendships that ended because of a lack of communications. I’m a strange sort of duck when it comes to friendship. I’m always excited to get to know someone new, someone else, or even someone past. *But, one thing I have come to know is, “if the other person refuses to communicate, there will be love lost between us.”* This doesn’t mean I won’t still desire the relationship. Oh, I still will. I have many people with whom I still desire a friendship. But over the years, I’ve realized that if a person won’t communicate, the relationship won’t mature. I’ve learned to walk away from people who won’t give back in the form of communication. Love will not exist for love can’t exist when people don’t talk.

But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: (Ephesians 4:15)

The next time you ask yourself, “How long will love last,” ask another question, “How much do I communicate?”

The answer will quickly and clearly give you your answer. Don’t expect love to be present if talking isn’t there. Don’t expect love to be present if sharing isn’t there. Don’t expect love to be present if gentle, loving words don’t abound. This will always be true between you and God and between you and your neighbor if you greatly develop communication between each other. If a relationship between you and another has hit the skids, is tumbling down the rocky slopes, or is rushing through the torrents of a river of

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seeming no-return, perhaps you need to start communicating with your child, mate, friend, lover, or God. Love does not exist without communication. God proved that one when He said He loved us and then gave us His Word – the Bible! “How long will your love last?”

God bless you!

Jerry D. Brown