**LOVE LANGUAGES PART 2 5/17/2020**

A couple of weeks ago I challenged you to love those around you intentionally. Some of you are familiar with the book from Dr. Gary Chapman, [“The Five Love Languages,”](https://www.christianbook.com/languages-secret-that-lasts-new-edition/gary-chapman/9780802412706/pd/412706?event=ESRCQ) based on the premise of loving others in the same ways God loves us. Due to individual personality, we each interpret love in different ways. Take for example the couple mentioned in the book: He was originally drawn to her and felt loved because she listened to him and was genuinely interested in what he had to say (Quality time). He was attentive to her needs and always found little things to do for her that made her happy (Acts of service). After a few years of marriage, he began a demanding career and she had a baby. Although he bought her gifts to say, “I love you,” he no longer had time to do the acts of service that made her feel loved. Although she fixed nice meals in the evening to say, “I love you,” she spent all of her emotional energy on the baby, and no longer listened to the thoughts he tried to express. The conclusion? “We don’t love each other anymore.” Not true, they just stopped saying it in a way that the other person interpreted as love. In the author’s words, “their love tank was empty.”

Dr. Chapman lists five “love languages,” or ways that we can say, “I love you.” 1) Quality time; 2) Words of affirmation; 3) Gifts; 4) Acts of service; 5) Physical touch. There are one or two of these languages that mean more to your spouse, your child, your teenager, than any of the others. This is the one that makes them light up, express happiness, fulfillment and contentment. If this is all new to you, I’d bet that you already have an idea what that language is.

For those to whom this is a rerun, let me challenge you to purposefully fill your family’s love tanks. It takes thought and creativity to love intentionally, but the dividends are worth the effort. If this is new to you, let me ask you to take this quiz at <https://www.5lovelanguages.com/quizzes/>, and discover which love language means the most to you. Ask your spouse to do it with you, or do a little experiment to see if your deductions are true about them. Once you have discovered the language that really communicates love to them, speak it often. Don’t stop there. Take what you’ve learned and apply it to your children. Maybe even take it a step further and try it on that grump at work.

Jesus knew the value of genuine love. His ministry was motivated by love. He had compassion on those who were hurting, blind, lame and lost. Take a moment to read these Scripture passages dealing with love.

* Proverbs 10:12 *Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.*
* Matt. 5:44 *But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you…*
* Matt. 22:37 *Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*
* John 13:34 *A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.*
* John 13:35 *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*
* John 15:9 *As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.*
* John 15:12 *This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.*
* John 15:13 *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*
* Romans 5:8 *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*
* Romans 13:8 *Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.*
* Galations 5:14 *For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*
* Galations 5:22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love…*
* Eph. 5:2 *And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God…*
* Eph. 5:25 *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*
* Titus 2:4 *… teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,*
* 1Pet. 1:22 *… see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:*
* 1John 3:16 *Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us:*
* 1John 4:10 *Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*
* 1John 4:11 *Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.*
* 1John 4:18 *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear…*
* 1John 4:19 *We love him, because he first loved us.*

Love can melt a heart of stone, heal a battered soul, and restore a broken relationship. Love is a powerful motivator. We tell our children things like, “find a job doing what you love and you’ll never work a day in your life.” Research actually shows that love is the key to increased energy and creativity at work.

Genuine love sacrifices self for the benefit of others, like Christ did for us. Let me challenge you to demonstrate love to someone intentionally today, speaking the language that means the most to them. Take the time to learn their love language, speak it often and see what happens. May God bless you as you endeavor to please Him!