

Real Love

Romans 12:9, NLT

Don't just pretend that you love others. Really love them.

Real love for Jesus is obedience.

(John 14:15) "If you love me, you will obey what I command.

Real love for Jesus overflows as real love for everyone else.

(1 Thessalonians 3:12) May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.

Real love for your friends is loyalty.

(Proverbs 17:17) A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Real love for your enemies is grace.

(Matthew 5:43-45) "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Real love in courtship is abstinence.

(Matthew 1:18) This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

(1 Thessalonians 4:3) It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality.

Real love in marriage is submission.

(Ephesians 5:22) Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.

(Ephesians 5:25) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

Real love for children is discipline.

(Proverbs 13:24) He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.

(Ephesians 6:4, The Message) Fathers, don't exasperate your children by coming down hard on them. Take them by the hand and lead them in the way of the Master.

Real love must be received before it can be given.

(1 John 4:10) This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.