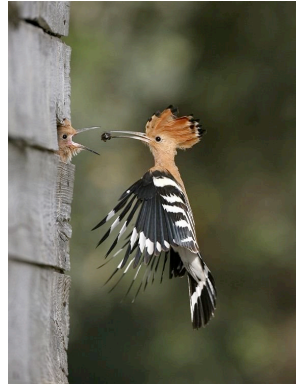


Love Matters
Mothers cannot do it all
But surely do they try.
Mothers hear the angel's call,
To comfort all who cry.
Mothers for themselves may fall,
For others they will fly.
Mother's bear the weight of all,
For their children, they would die.
A Mother's gift extends beyond
All bounds of time and space.
Her lovingness and nurturing
Make Earth a peaceful place.



Love Matters

Galatians 5:6 (NLT) “For when we place our faith in Christ Jesus, there is no benefit in being circumcised or being uncircumcised. What is important is faith expressing itself in love.”

Matthew 22:37-40 (NASB) “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 foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

John 13:34-35 (NASB) “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The Bible is very clear that:

- Love is the primary objective of life
- And love is the supreme value in life
- And love is the greatest power in life.

First: Love is a COMMAND.

2 John 1:6 (NLT) “Love means doing what God has commanded us, and he has commanded us to love one another, just as you heard from the beginning.”

Romans 5:5 (NASB) “... the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

Second: Love is a CHOICE.

1 Corinthians 14:1 (NLT) “Let love be your highest goal! But you should also desire the special abilities the Spirit gives—especially the ability to prophesy.

Third: Love is ACTION.

1 John 3:18 (HCSB) “Little children, we must not love in word or speech, but in deed and truth.”

Fourth: Love is a COMMITMENT.

1 John 4:16-18a (NLT) “We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love.

God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear.”

Love Matters

In conclusion look at these four truths with the only example we are ever to compare ourselves - JESUS

Love is a Command!

John 15:9-10 (NASB) "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love."

Love is a Choice!

Philippians 2:5-8 (NASB) "Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

Love is Conduct!

Romans 5:6-8 (NASB) "For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Love is a Commitment!

Romans 8:35;38-39 (NASB) "Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ... For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Application:

Answer the following statements on a scale of one to ten:

I love God with all my strength, with all my mind and with all my heart.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

I love others the way that God loves me.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

I love myself the way God loves me.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

How do I demonstrate love:

Toward God?

Toward other?

Toward myself?

What truths has God taught me through this lesson that I need to apply to my life?

Name one action that you will take this week to apply the lesson(s) you have learned.

Memory verse: **Ephesians 5:1-2 (NLT)** "Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God."

