WHAT IS GOD'S LOVE LANGUAGE?

God is *the* language of love.

KEY POINTS

- According to Gary Chapman, we can effectively love our children, our parents, our spouse and each other by striving to know each person's language of love (i.e. how they receive love). By knowing how to demonstrate love properly, we can then effectively give the gift of love to the people in our lives.
- Chapman states that there are five "love languages." It is important to know what each language means so that we can learn how to give love to others in the way they best receive it.
- **Quality Time** is the gift of your presence to your loved one. It is focused, undivided attention given to that person with the aim to convey the message "I like being with you because I value you."
- **Physical Touch** is one of love's strongest "voices." For many children, physical touch speaks louder than quality time, words of affirmation, gifts, or acts of service.
- **Words of Affirmation** are powerful in communicating love. Words of affection and endearment, of praise and encouragement, nurture our inner sense of worth and security. Conversely, cutting words, spoken out of short-lived frustrations, can hurt us and cast doubts upon our abilities and self-worth. Remember: "Death and life are in the power of the tongue" (Proverbs 18:21).
- **Gifts.** The giving and receiving of gifts can be a powerful expression of love–not only at the time they are given, but often extending into later years.
- However, a word of caution: be careful not to shower children with gifts as substitutes for the other love languages, as some parents may find it easier to give gifts than to give of themselves emotionally.
- **Acts of Service** encompass our role as parents and/or as spouses. We do for our children what they cannot do for themselves. We do for our spouse what pleases him/her in order to express our love to and for him/her.
- But how do these principles line up with Scripture? Are these things we need to know in order to be a follower of Jesus? Does God have a love language?
- **Quality Time.** We remember well how the children of Israel were delivered from Egypt and how the LORD was with His people, going before them as a pillar of cloud by day and as a pillar of fire by night (Exodus 13:17-18, 21). He journeyed with them and never left them alone (Deuteronomy 31:6, 8).
- **Physical Touch.** In Mark 10:13-16, parents had brought their children to Jesus so He might *touch* them. He touched the leper when no one else would and healed him completely (Mark 1:41).

KEY SCRIPTURES:
I John 4:7-21

God also touches us so that we might be ministers of His Word (Jeremiah 1:9). God's love includes physical touch.

- **Words of Affirmation.** From the very beginning, God has been affirming mankind, calling man and everything He had created "very good" (Genesis 1:31).
- **Gifts.** Throughout the history of the children of Israel, God gave them what they did not deserve simply because He loved them with an everlasting love…as He does us. Daily He "…loads us with benefits" (Psalm 68:19).
- **Acts of Service.** Is there any language of love greater than the acts of service that the God of heaven has lavished upon us? "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).
- God *is* love; God is every language of love. His greatest desire for us is that we love one another—everyone—as He has loved us. So why do we find it difficult to love each other, our children, our spouse, our God? Because WE are not love, as God *is* love.
- We cannot be love if we are not apprentices of Jesus. We cannot be like Christ without Christ being *in* us to do the loving *for* us.
- God is *the* language of love. Are you willing to be the love of God in this world?

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. What is your go-to "love language"? Is your love language the same for everybody, or does it vary from person to person? If so, why?
2. How has God expressed His love language to you? How do you express your love in return?
3. In what ways can we not only better express, but also consistently express God's love language to the world around us?

Prayer Time

Help me, Lord, to love the way You love and to give the way you consistently, unfailingly give. Help me to truly be more like You.

L.G. ice-Breaker: What was the most meaningful gift you had ever received? Was it the gift itself that made it so special, or the gift-giver?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2018

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

(Reminds me/Confirms) (New idea) (Think about)

! (Do this) (Speaks to my heart) (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS