



# APPLES OF GOLD



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## What Is Real Love...

...from a child's point of view

"When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too."

"Love is what makes you smile even when you're tired."

"If you want to learn to love better, you should start with someone who doesn't like you."

"Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well."

"Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken."

"I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones." 😊

A four year old child saw his elderly next door neighbor sitting on his porch crying. The old gentleman had recently lost his wife. The child went to the old man's porch, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his mother asked what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, "Nothing, I just helped him cry."

Love from God's point of view is giving. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever beliveth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* (John 3:16)

Whining can end in Sorrow, but Winning can follow Suffering.



**GEMS FROM PASTOR ROB**  
*Quotes from several messages  
 on the subject of friendship*  
 May 7, 14, 21, 2008

*Marriage and friendship are intertwined. These statements apply to all relationships. Many of these principles come from Prov. 17, 18, and 27.*

- There are friends and then there are acquaintances. Can you name five people you would contact in a crisis? They will not be casual or “fair weather friends,” but special friends you trust and in whom you can confide.
- Jesus had only a few special friends. Having too many friends is costly in terms of investing time, effort, and care.
- If you are a true friend, you won’t just give gifts. You will give time. You won’t “use” others to get what you want.
- You are a true friend if your friend makes a big mistake and it doesn’t change your relationship in any way. You will still love your friend. You can also find out who your true friends are in the same way, by making a big mistake.
- To make and be a friend, take the initiative. Don’t wait for people to come to you.
- Be practical. Go where you’ll meet the right friends – a Christian school and/or church.
- Be yourself. Don’t come on too strong; don’t smother people. Friends can’t be made overnight.
- Pray – God, please give me a true friend, and help me to be one.

- If you are a true friend, you will not shrink from giving heartfelt counsel (Prov. 27:9).
- Choose friends who will have a positive influence on you. They won’t just make you feel good, but they will help you to be a better person. Are they a better person in your presence, and you in theirs?
- It’s possible to be married sweethearts, but not friends.
- You will sacrifice and you will be sensitive to the needs of your friend. You will carry their sorrows on your back.
- A true friend won’t condone your wrong doing. “Faithful are the wounds of a friend” (Prov. 27:6). Compliments are sincere; flattery is not, and the basis for each is the motive. Judas kissed Jesus; flattery is hypocrisy.
- The basis for having a true friend is to meet Jesus first. He loves us and wants to change us. People without Jesus as Lord are selfish and looking out for themselves. When we belong to Him we have the kind of security we need to be a good friend.

**Although love is not always funny, here are some silly stories about other kinds of love.**

Dear Pastor, I know God loves everybody, but He never met my sister. Yours sincerely, Arnold. Age 8, Nashville.

Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.

Bumper sticker: Honk if you love peace and quiet.

Women love cats. Men say they love cats, but when women aren't looking, men kick cats.

A wife and husband both talked in their sleep. She loved auctions; he loved golf. The other night, the man yelled, "Fore!" His wife yelled back, "Four Fifty!"

**We color a  red. Here’s a recipe for Ambrosia that’s close; orange or pink.**

- 2 cups cottage cheese
- 1 (3 oz.) pkg. either orange, strawberry, raspberry, or cherry Jello or off-brand gelatin (dry)
- Add dry Jello to cottage cheese and mix well. Then add...
- 1-2 cans of Mandarin oranges, drained
- 1 small can crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 (8 oz.) tub Cool Whip – fold in last

To halve the recipe, use 1 cup cottage cheese, 4 oz. of Cool Whip, and 1 can of fruit (your choice) in place of Mandarin oranges and crushed pineapple. To reduce sugar content, you can use sugar free gelatin or ½ pkg. reg. gelatin. I have experimented with sugar-free gelatin and/or fat-free cottage cheese, and sometimes the consistency of the final product is not as firm. I haven’t kept track concerning which combination works best. However, it’s always delicious and worth experimenting.

**“Get it done in 21.”** New saying for the new year contributed by one of our family members.

# COMMON QUESTIONS

1. **My god is a god of love and would never send anyone to hell.** Well, if you believe that, you are right! Your god would never send anyone to hell, because he couldn't. He is a figment of your imagination. You have made a god in your mind that you are more comfortable with, which is an example of idolatry, and a violation of the first and second commandments. The Bible makes it very clear that there is a day coming in which God will, "judge the world in righteousness." The one true God manifests all the qualities of perfection: eternity, omnipotence, love, light, holiness, sovereignty, and justice. A holy God will never tolerate sin nor allow it to go unpunished. A just God will mete out that punishment according to the crime. The crime is that of breaking God's laws, rebellion against God, failing to repent of sin, refusing to acknowledge that He is God, and not accepting His Son as the one and only sacrifice for sin.
2. **I am sorry for my sins and ask for forgiveness all the time.** If you were in a court because of a crime you had committed, would a judge let you go simply because you said you were sorry? No. You should be sorry, but there is a fine to pay and punishment to be meted out. God will not forgive a sinner on the basis that he is sorry. He will only release the sinner from the demands of eternal justice on the basis that someone else paid the fine. Jesus took our punishment on the cross. Now all who repent and trust in Him alone to provide forgiveness and a home in heaven, will be born into His family and saved eternally.
3. **What about all the hypocrites in the church?** "Hypocrite" comes from the Greek word for "actor," or "pretender." The \*Church is made up of true believers. Hypocrites are "pretenders" who sit among God's people. God knows those who love and belong to Him. The Bible warns that He will sort out the true converts from the false on the Day of Judgment. All hypocrites will end up in hell (Matt. 24:51). (More next month about "false conversions") \*This is the Church universal, the Bride of Christ, of which many in local churches are members.
4. **It is narrow minded to say that Christ is the only way.** "*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*" (Acts 4:12) "*For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*" (I Tim. 2:5). To say there are other ways to find peace with God is to bear false testimony. Jesus discards all other religions when He says "*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one cometh to the Father but by me.*" (John 14:6). If mankind could have reached God any other way, then Jesus would not have had to die. His death illustrates the fact that there is no other way. No other religion or religious leader can bring someone to the knowledge of the one true God. In addition, no other religious leader, who claims to be the way to God, or claims to be God, is alive. Jesus is the only one who came back from the dead.

## Romance vs. Love

Romance is fleeting, love is lasting.  
Romance is suspense and anticipation.  
Love is dependability and commitment.  
Romance is often based on opposition,  
risks, and denials. Love is often based on  
similar backgrounds, parents and friends  
who approve and encourage.

Romance is striving to appear attractive  
to each other. Love is finding beauty in  
each other no matter how they look.  
Romance is waiting for the phone call  
that includes endearments. Love waits  
for the phone call to assure the loved  
one is safe.

Love is flattering attention. Love is genuine thoughtfulness.  
Romance can't last. Love can't help it.  
Romance is a craving. Love is a commitment. Romance is  
delicious. Love nourishes. Romance seeks perfection. Love  
forgives faults. Romance is getting. Love is giving.

Romance is flying. Love is a  
safe landing.



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