



5 MINUTE LESSONS ON THE KINGDOM OF GOD

I'm Hooked on a Feeling!

B.J. Thomas, the famous rock 'n' roll singer from the 1970s, had a popular hit that said, "I'm hooked on a feeling, I'm high on believing you're in love with me."

It's so true, people go from one relationship to another because they are hooked on a feeling. But what they don't know is that feelings come and go like the wind.

When you first meet that Mr. Right or Miss Right, it's like heaven. We talk for hours, we love those kind and loving words, and the physical touch. We never hurt one another or say unkind or negative things.

The Problem: Relationships that are based only on feelings have a life span of about six months to two years. Divorce rates are about 50% or higher. Second and third marriages go downhill and bring the divorce rates even higher. So why not just live together until the feelings go and then start over with someone else? No commitment, no lasting relationship. Does that sound familiar for couples today? Nothing starts so wonderful and ends so lousy.

The Bible uses or alludes to four Greek words for love:

Eros — sexual love

Storge — family bonds

Philia — love that is based on feelings that come and go

Agape — God's love that will seek the welfare and betterment of others regardless of how you feel

Two problems from the male and female perspective:

1) The husband thinks, "My wife doesn't tell me she loves me anymore." But if you are the kind of husband that criticizes, shows anger, is controlling, complains about everything, makes your wife feel she can't do anything to please you, then don't expect a gushing, expressive kind of love from her. You have killed it.

2) The wife thinks, "My husband doesn't tell me he loves me anymore." But if you are the kind of wife that criticizes, shows anger, is controlling, complains about having sex, makes your husband feel he can't do anything to please you, then don't expect a gushing, expressive kind of love from him. You have killed it.

Matthew 7:12 says,

“Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 7:12 NLT)

So whatever you would like to be done to you, do it first to your spouse. Let your words build up and not condemn (Colossians 4:6). Let your actions be loving and kind (1 Corinthians 13:4).

“This is how the holy women of old made themselves beautiful. They trusted God and accepted the authority of their husbands.” (1 Peter 3:5 NLT)

“³Don’t be concerned about the outward beauty of fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes. ⁴You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God.” (1 Peter 3:3-4 NLT)

“In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God’s gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.” (1 Peter 3:7 NLT)

Men, if you want to be loved, then love your wife. God made her a responder.

Over the years, our marriage relationship will go into different phases of love as we age. Less sex, more commitment, care taker and then death. I could say more.

See if you can out love your spouse with your actions.

“Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.” (1 John 3:18 NLT)

Let us do it God’s way! We know our way doesn’t work.

Questions

- 1** What makes speaking in tongues, faith, generosity, and even martyrdom worthless?
- 2** What do we gain if we don’t have love?
- 3** What qualities does love have?
- 4** How will we be different when we see Christ?

5 What is the greatest of all gifts?

We want to hear from you!

We would love to hear your feedback on these lessons and how you use them in your own study or in discipling others. If you have any thoughts, stories, testimonies, comments, or questions we would love to hear them!

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Answer Key

1 What makes speaking in tongues, faith, generosity, and even martyrdom worthless?

“If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn’t love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God’s secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn’t love others, I would be nothing. ³If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn’t love others, I would have gained nothing.”
(1 Corinthians 13:1-3 NLT)

2 What do we gain if we don’t have love?

“If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn’t love others, I would have gained nothing.” (1 Corinthians 13:3 NLT)

3 What qualities does love have?

“⁴Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud ⁵or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. ⁶It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. ⁷Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.”
(1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NLT)

4 How will we be different when we see Christ?

“¹⁰But when full understanding comes, these partial things will become useless. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. ¹²Now we see things imperfectly as in a cloudy mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.” (1 Corinthians 13:10-12 NLT)

5 What is the greatest of all gifts?

“Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.” (1 Corinthians 13:13 NLT)