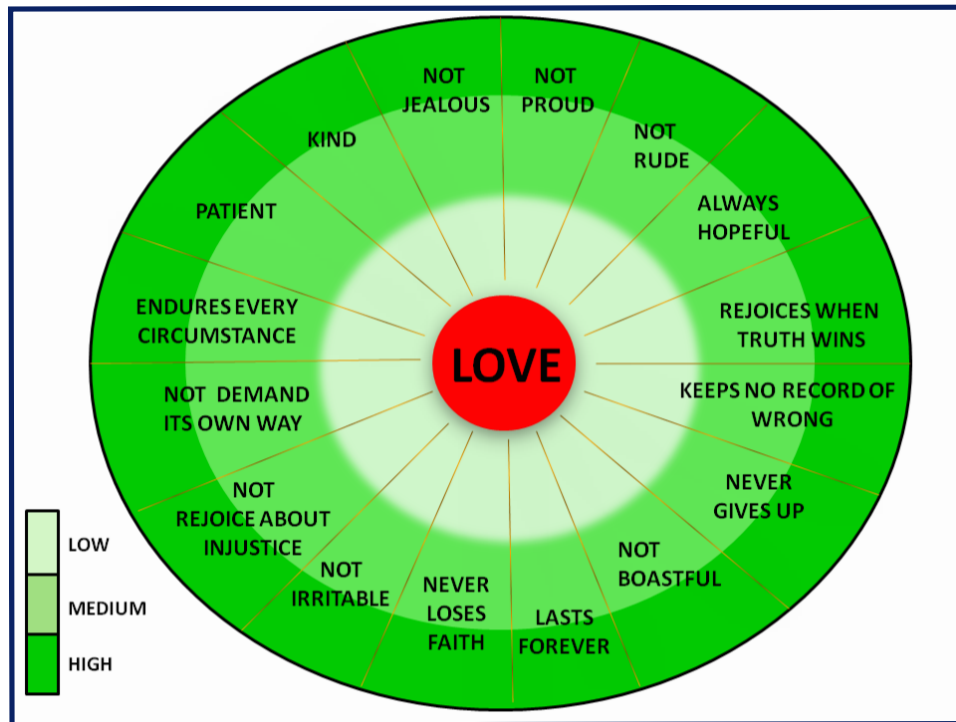


THE TRUTH HERALD

Your Lovemeter: What Is It Reading Today?



1 - All who confess that Jesus is the son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. 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 loves them. And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. (I John 4:15-17)

One cannot separate God from Love nor Love from God. The Scriptures say God is love, and all who live in love, live in God. We can therefore infer that our standing in Christ or our spiritual condition is closely related to how much we love. A thermometer is used to measure how hot something is; a hygrometer is for measuring the moisture content in the atmosphere; a barometer is for measuring atmospheric pressure. A Lovemeter is unique in the sense that it measures a collective set of attributes that sum up the state of our God-like love. The Scriptures say that as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. This love cannot be independent of the Holy Spirit because it is He who enables us to live, and move and have our being in Christ and therefore to become more like Christ (Acts 17:28). The love of God is shed abroad by His spirit in our hearts. (Rom 5:5)

2 - Jesus replied, "You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: love your neighbor as yourself." The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments." (Matt 22: 37-40)

One of the most profound statements in all of Scripture is stated above, that the entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on two commandments ... love God ... love your neighbor!!! It is all about LOVE. What this tells us is that the one thing that is dear to God's heart is that His people will live in love - His love. Jesus said "So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other, just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that You are my disciples." (John 13:34-35)

3 - But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love ... There is no law against these things. (Gal 5:22-23)

We cannot be condemned for loving ... Loving God's way. We do not define how we want to or should love for it is the Holy Spirit who produces the fruit of love in our lives. He produces that kind of unconditional love ... That kind of love against which there is no law, and therefore no condemnation. If there was a meter to determine how we measure up to God's love, what would your Lovemeter read? Would it be high on certain attributes and abysmally low on others? Would it be low on all? High on all? The Scriptures tell us that three things will last forever - faith, hope, and love - and the greatest of these is love (1 Cor 13:13). What is your Lovemeter reading today?

4 - 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. If 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. 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 Cor 13:1-3)

Oftentimes, it is easy to overlook the things the writer states in the first three verses of the most popular chapter on love in the Scriptures. The picture painted is such a gloomy one. You can be and do everything but without love you are nothing, have gained nothing, and fallen short of the most important expectation of God after being born-again. The Scriptures actually state that all shall pass away but love will last forever. (1 Cor 13:8)

5 - Love is ... (1 Cor 13:4-7)

The attributes of love that the Scriptures define using "Love is ..." are those we want to register high on the Lovemeter any time, any day, anywhere, anyhow we are. The Scriptures list a number of such attributes that we want to grow more perfect in. Love is patient and kind ... rejoices whenever the truth wins out ... is always hopeful ... and endures through every circumstance (1 Cor 13:4-7) ... is sincere (Rom 12:9). These are individual attributes but they are not independent of each other. Where do you stand on each one now? Are you in the light green or matching on to perfection in the deep green? Go ahead and take account of where you stand on each attribute today. Great if you register well now but if not, do not forget the Holy Spirit is our enabler.

6 - Love is not ... (1 Cor 13:4-7)

The Scriptures also give us attributes that characterize what "Love is not" ... Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice ... Love never gives up, never loses faith.

Unfortunately, it can be very challenging to overcome these tendencies in our day-to-day walk but the great news is that the Holy Spirit is our enabler. Jesus once said "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5). We remain in Christ by faith and allow the Holy Spirit to lead us. Gal 5:1 and 13-14 tell us: "So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law ... For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." "