**Love - Stories & Illustrations**

**David Holstrom, a tough-minded reporter, tells of watching a Boston TV program about a woman who was describing an extremely brutal childhood in which her father and mother abused her in every conceivable way. He writes: “Her face, slightly boyish and dusted with freckles, filled the television screen. Although she admitted that she still carried scars and sometimes struggled with terrible memories, she said her triumph was evidenced in a successful 11-year marriage with a good man along with her ability to hold a responsible professional job. When the woman was asked why she thought she had not only survived but triumphed, she answered, ‘I had more love than they had hate.’ She said it just that way: direct, firm, and with chin tilted up just a little, ‘I had more love than they had hate.’” *(Arthur J. Landwehr, in Parables newsletter)***

**Acronym: One of my prison students in the Science of Mind class at Cummins Department of Corrections, Knox Hamilton said: Love = Letting Our Value Express. *(Rev. Andy Kress)***

**Affirmation: “I open my heart to Your love, God, letting the warm radiance shine out to all the world. I make the decision, right now, to bless everyone and every situation with true love, for when I love, I am most like You. Thank You, God, for Your gift of unending love.” *(Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest)***

**What “aloha” really means is “love.” Not surprising, is it, that so many prefer it to “hello” or “goodbye”? *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Aloha friends: Aloha means “I love you.” It is a greeting constantly used in Hawaii instead of “hello” or “goodbye.” *(Jack E. Addington)***

**You will have your hands full and your heart filled as you strive to live out Love's Alphabet : LOVE Accepts ... Behaves ... Cheers ... Defends ... Enriches ... Forgives ... Grows ... Helps ... Includes ... Joins ... Kneels ... Listens ... Motivates ... Notices ... Overlooks ... Provides ... Quiets ... Respects ... Surprises ... Tries ... Understands ... Volunteers ... Warms ... Expects ... Yields! Moreover, love in action is the code that adds Zip to your life! *(Redeemer Church of Joy, Odessa, Texas)***

**In the arithmetic of love, one plus one equals everything, and two minus one equals nothing. *(The Atlantic)***

**The Bible tells us to love our neighbors, and also to love our enemies, probably because they are generally the same people. *(G. K. Chesterton)***

**Love is like the native who made a new boomerang but never got to use it because he kept trying to throw the old one away. We never really plumb the depths of love because we never try to give enough away. *(Jim Ockley)***

**A chemist who can extract from his heart's element, compassion, respect, longing, patience, regret, surprise and forgiveness and compound them into one can create that atom which is called love. *(Kahlil Gibran)***

**Childhood today is too hurried and fast. Development is a process, not a race. Women feel that if they can run a big ad agency or write a column or present a show, by golly, they can make the best child that’s ever been. To me, the most important thing one can give a child is genuinely unconditional love. That is what self-esteem and self-confidence are founded on. When you push a child to do things early or to be the best at gymnastics or dancing class, you imply, “I love you more when you win.” That is very damaging. *(Penelope Leach, in the New York Times)***

**In Margaret Walker’s novel Jubilee, Vyry, the mother, speaks of her commitment to love. “Keeping hatred inside makes you git mean and evil inside. We supposen to love everybody like God loves us. And when you forgives you feels sorry for the one what hurt you, you returns love for hate, and good for evil. And that stretches your heart and makes you bigger inside with a bigger heart so’s you can love everybody. You can lick the world with a loving heart.” *(Pulpit Digest)***

**Ptolemy, ruler over Egypt, was severely criticized because he treated prisoners and enemies of war too easily, because he did not destroy them, as was the custom.  He retorted, “What, do I not destroy my enemies when I befriend them?” The world may yet come to realize that the only way to destroy enemies is to destroy enmity. There are no enemies where love reigns. An enemy has no power over you unless you let him shut your consciousness off from the current of God’s love that is seeking free expression through you. *(A Synoptic Study of the Teachings of Unity, p. 65)***

**Meeting aggression with aggression is a natural reaction with most of us, yet it is seldom the best way to solve the problem. A man moved into a new neighborhood. Next door was a large, mean, ugly dog. Every time the man passed the house next door, the dog would run at him, barking viciously. But the man was as wise with dogs as with men. He did not attempt to drive off the dog by going after him with a stick or a rock. Nor did he complain angrily to the dog’s owner, or call the police. Instead, he set out to make friends with the dog. Each day as he passed he would talk to the dog in a friendly voice. And each day he would bring the dog a biscuit. Before many days had passed the dog ceased his belligerence, and every time he saw the man coming, he ran out to meet him with tail wagging. Soon the two were great friends. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Nobody can fully understand the meaning of love unless he’s owned a dog. He can show you more honest affection with a flick of his tail than a man can gather through a lifetime of handshakes. (*Gene Hill, in Tears and Laughter)***

**Dogs teach us about faith, trust and devotion. They teach us how to devotedly serve a higher master, how to attend and wait and how to let go of a grudge. But most of all, they teach us about the meaning and experience of unconditional love. *(Lama Surya Das, in Dog Is My Co-Pilot)***

**A pack of dogs roaming a garbage dump in Calcutta came across an abandoned baby and kept a night-long vigil protecting the infant, according to the Press Trust of India. The dogs then followed a woman who took the child to a police station and stood outside, apparently concerned over the baby’s fate. Authorities could not find the child’s parents and sent it to Mother Theresa’s abandoned children’s home.  Earlier press reports telling of hungry dogs eating newborn babies in state-run hospitals were in contrast to this tale of canine compassion. *(Rocky Mountain News, 1996)***

**Dolly says to her Mom while showing her a picture that she and PJ have been drawing: “Up here he drew a heart, and that squiggle spells ‘Mommy,’ and down here it says ‘Love, PJ.’” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**When you love someone you do not love them all the time, in exactly the same way, from moment to moment. It is an impossibility. It is even a lie to pretend to. And yet this is exactly what most of us demand. We have so little faith in the ebb and flow of life, of love, and relationships. We leap at the flow of the tide and resist in terror its ebb. We are afraid it will never return. We insist on permanency, on duration, on continuity; when the only continuity possible in life, as in love, is achieved through growth, fluidity, and freedom. *(Anne Morrow Lindberg)***

**When 20-year-old Angela Saraiva of Salta, Argentina, went missing after a party, her mother became distraught. Her worst fears were apparently confirmed when she identified what she thought was her daughter's body at the morgue. The funeral was in full swing the next day when Saraiva herself showed up. “My parents thought I was this woman because she looked just like me,” she said. “This whole experience made me realize how much my friends and family love me, and how much they would miss me if I die. That made me feel important.” *(The Week magazine, January 27, 2006)***

**One would think that of all the places to find a definition of God, the Bible would be the first place to look. Yet John was the only writer in the Bible to define God, and he used only three words to define the Undefinable: “God is love” (1 John 4:8). How simple.  How succinct. How complete. How utterly perfect! God is love. *(Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest, p. 259)***

**The Bible says, We love because he first loved us. God’s love is everywhere present. God loves you first. Therefore, when you start loving God, you don’t have to make God be there. Love is always waiting for you. When you start loving God, you start loving love, and you let love be expressed in your life. *(Jack E. Addington)***

**One Friday afternoon last August, a three-year-old boy visiting the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago decided he wanted a closer look at the gorillas. He wiggled away from his parents, clambered over a railing, and fell into the enclosure. Knocked unconscious by the 20-foot fall, he lay helplessly on the ground. Moments later, one of the gorillas, Binti Jua, with her own 17-month-old infant riding on her back, walked over, gently picked the boy up and carried him to a door where she was accustomed to seeing her keepers. “We arrived about 20 seconds after the boy had fallen,” says chief keeper Craig Demitros.  Demitros’s crew used fire hoses to direct Binti and the other gorillas out of the enclosure, after which paramedics tended to the boy -- who escaped with a broken hand and some bruises. The story made news around the world, with many of the reports citing Binti’s behavior as evidence of remarkable compassion and understanding. *(Barbie Bischof, in Discover Magazine)***

**Luther Burbank, who had such tremendous success with growing things, when asked the secret of his success, replied, “I just love them.” *(A Synoptic Study of the Teachings of Unity, p. 65)***

**An anthropologist once asked a Hopi why so many of his people's songs were about rain. The Hopi replied that it was because water is so scarce. Is that why so many of your songs are about love? *(Gregory McNamee)***

**Wife says to husband: “Duncan gets so insecure when anyone else gets affection.” Dog: “I just don’t want you running out of love!” *(Chris Browne, in Raising Duncan comic strip)***

**When Jesus talks about giving and serving and loving one’s neighbor (even loving an enemy) it would seem that his ideals were completely impractical and unsuited for life in our times. These ideals are the very practical means of setting up causes that will have good effects in our life. They simply stress the importance of making positive deposits in the cosmic bank, to insure the flow of good. *(Eric Butterworth, in Discover the Power Within You)***

**Jesus thought it so important he made it a commandment. I give you a new commandment, he said, Love one another. *(Jack E. Addington)***

**There is one couple I shall always remember from my days as a hospital admitting clerk. The husband, a heart-attack victim, was immediately whisked away by the staff. Hours passed, though, before his wife was allowed to see him. She was dismayed to find him hooked up to elaborate machines that blipped, hissed and beeped.  She tiptoed toward his bed and, bending over him, whispered, “George, I’m here.” Then she kissed him. Suddenly there was a blippety-blip-blip from the equipment. “He was okay,” she later explained. “But after forty-seven years of marriage it’s nice to know that I can still make his heart skip when I kiss him.” *(Katie Barnes, in Reader’s Digest)***

**The Laws of Love:**

1. **If something can go right, it will.**
2. **Nothing is too good to be true. Only what is good is true.**
3. **Ease is more effective than struggle.**
4. **Love is the Law that always works.**
5. **Life takes care of those who love.**
6. **You are safe now. Danger seems real only in the past and future.**
7. **Asking for what you want increases your chance of getting it.**
8. **Idols always fall on those who worship them.**
9. **No door closes without a wider door opening.**
10. **Death is but a shadow.**
11. **Life just keeps finding new and more joyful forms to express itself.**
12. **Life is good, and it only gets better. *(Alan Cohen, in Heartlines)***

**After Katarina Witt of East Germany won the Olympic gold medal in woman's figure skating in 1984, she received 35,000 love letters. *(The Winter Olympics Issue, 1992)***

**Abraham Lincoln amazed the nation by putting into his Cabinet his foremost political enemies. As Secretary of War he chose Stanton, who had sneeringly characterized him as a clown and a gorilla. He made Seward Secretary of State, knowing well that Seward regarded himself as much the abler man. Chase, his Secretary of the Treasury, used his Cabinet influence to promote his own chances for the presidential nomination. It meant nothing to Lincoln so long as Chase kept the confidence of the country and did his work well. When McClellan snubbed him brutally, and Lincoln was urged to replace him, he replied: “I will hold McClellan’s horse if only he will give us victories.” *(Sunshine magazine)***

**The Greeks used two words in relation to love: agape, meaning God’s love expressed in and through life, and eros, meaning human love. Think of agape love as being completely unconditioned. This means where there are not “ifs” or “but”; no circumstances or conditions dependent upon some particular event or experience. *(Jack Addington)***

**In 1925, two young medical school graduates and their father started a tiny sanitarium for mental patients on a farm outside Topeka, Kansas. At a time when the “rest cure” was in vogue in psychiatry, this father-and-son team determined to create a family atmosphere among their patients. The nurses were given specific training on how they were to behave toward specific patients: “Let him know that you value and like him.” “Be kind but firm with this woman--don't let her become worse.” Those young doctors were Karl and William Menninger, and the Menninger Clinic, using such “revolutionary” methods, has become world famous. Karl Menninger, summing up, said, “Love is the medicine for the sickness of mankind. We can live if we have love.” *(Glenn Van Ekeren, in The Speaker's Sourcebook , p. 254)***

**A highly respected minister was eating lunch at the Unity Inn when the conversation turned to love. His comment was: “The hardest commandment I have to keep is the one to love your neighbor as yourself. I’ve seen how my neighbors love themselves – and I don’t want to be treated like that!” So . . . how are you loving yourself today? (*S.C.U.C.A., Regional Reporter)***

**First girl: “What's that?” Second girl: “A note from Leopoldo. The note reads: I love you. If you don't want to love me back please pass this on to someone else. Thanks. Leo.” *(Cantu & Castellanos, in Baldo comic strip)***

**What is your favorite occupation? Loving. *(Marcel Proust, in 1892, at the age of 20)***

**A young man once talked with people of many races and creeds. Each told him of the oldest thing in the world. He determined to find it. He walked many miles and was often rewarded by beautiful vistas before him; but always when he heard of a very ancient thing and went to see it, someone told him of another much older...After many years he returned home, an old man, still not having found that for which he was in search. One day as he sat in his garden, a little girl passed holding an old doll tenderly in her arms.  He watched her smooth its rough, tangled hair and speak to it as a mother would to her baby. “At least,” he sighed, “here is the oldest thing in the world. It is love!” *(Ethel F. Saunders, Rosicrucian Digest)***

**The 1992 Olympics are now history, but while they were in progress a few months back, we remembered the story of Henry Pearce of Australia, who was competing in the single scull rowing event at the 1928 Olympics. He was leading when a duck and her string of ducklings came into view up ahead. They were on a collision course and Pearce reckoned that his scull would cut the string in two and sink a few ducklings in the process, so he pulled in his oars. When the ducks passed, Pearce again bent his back to the task. There’s a happy ending to the story. Pearce won. Usually, acts of sportsmanship result in defeat. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**A little eight-year-old girl in a Pennsylvania orphanage was shy, unattractive and regarded as a problem by the teachers. Two other asylums had her transferred, and now the director and her assistants were seeking some pretext for getting rid of her. An ironclad rule was that any communication from a child in the institution had to be approved before it could be mailed. The little girl had been observed stealing down to the main gate and carefully hiding a letter in a tree. The director and her assistant hurried down to the brick wall. Sure enough, the note was visible through the dark branches of the big tree. The director pounced on it and tore open the envelope. Then without speaking she passed the note to her assistant. It read, “To anybody who finds this: I love you.” *(Cadle Call)***

**Paul now gives us some of the things that love is not. Love is not jealous or boastful, not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful. When a person expresses any of the foregoing traits, those things which love is not, one feels it and notices it. All those traits are basically expressions of fear. *(Jack E. Addington)***

**Looking for love on the Web is big business. Personals generated $302 million in revenue in 2002, or 63 percent of all paid content online, according to research from comScore and the Online Publishers Association. For example, personals helped drive Yahoo’s first-quarter paid subscription revenue up 61 percent, to $63.7 million. *(Rocky Mountain News, June 9, 2003)***

**Photographer James Van Der Zee says of a youthful photograph of his wife displayed in his apartment: “When she was young I loved her because she was beautiful. When she got old I loved her because I knew her.” *(Clinton Cox, in New York Sunday News magazine)***

**A wise physician said to me, “I have been practicing medicine for 30 years, and I have prescribed many things. But in the long run I have learned that for most of what ails the human creature the best medicine is love.” “What if it doesn't work?” I asked. “Double the dose,” he replied. *(Howard Whitman, Register and Tribune Syndicate)***

**Most popular postage stamp ever printed said simply: “Love.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

**THE SURPRISING POWER OF LOVE: I was having trouble with a very difficult person at work. I began to call on Divine Love to help me. While she has not changed very much, I am happy to say I have! This means she no longer bothers me. I am no longer troubled by what she does or says. And I have even found myself praying for her. Yes, Divine Love has “done a number” on me. Indiana. *(Catherine Ponder, in Keys to Prosperity newsletter)***

**A college professor had his sociology class go into the Baltimore slums to get case histories of 200 young boys. They were asked to write an evaluation of each boy's future. In every case the students wrote, “He hasn't got a chance.” Twenty-five years later another sociology professor came across the earlier study. He had his students follow up on the project to see what had happened to these boys. With the exception of 20 boys who had moved away or died, the students learned that 176 of the remaining 180 had achieved more than ordinary success as lawyers, doctors and businessmen. The professor was astounded and decided to pursue the matter further. Fortunately all the men were in the area and he was able to ask each one, “How do you account for your success?” In each case the reply came with feeling, “There was a teacher.” The teacher was still alive, so he sought her out and asked the old but still alert lady what magic formula she had used to pull these boys out of the slums into successful achievements. The teacher's eyes sparkled and her lips broke into a gentle smile. “It's really very simple,” she said. “I loved those boys.” *(Eric Butterworth)***

**A store owner was tacking a sign above his door that read “Puppies For Sale.” Signs like that have a way of attracting small children, and sure enough, a little boy appeared under the store owner’s sign. “How much are you going to sell the puppies for?” he asked. The store owner replied, “Anywhere from $30 to $50.” The little boy reached in his pocket and pulled out some change. “I have $2.37,” he said. “Can I please look at them?” The store owner smiled and whistled and out of the kennel came Lady, who ran down the aisle of his store followed by five teeny, tiny balls of fur. One puppy was lagging considerably behind. Immediately the little boy singled out the lagging, limping puppy and said, “What’s wrong with that little dog?” The store owner explained that the veterinarian had examined the little puppy and had discovered it didn’t have a hip socket.  It would always limp. It would always be lame. The little boy became excited. “That is the little puppy that I want to buy.” The store owner said, “No, you don’t want to buy that little dog. If you really want him, I’ll just give him to you.” The little boy got quite upset. He looked straight into the store owner’s eyes, pointing his finger, and said, “I don’t want you to give him to me. That little dog is worth every bit as much as all the other dogs and I’ll pay full price.  In fact, I’ll give you $2.37 now, and 50 cents a month until I have him paid for.” The store owner countered, “You really don’t want to buy this little dog. He is never going to be able to run and jump and play with you like the other puppies.” To this, the little boy reached down and rolled up his pant leg to reveal a badly twisted, crippled left leg supported by a big metal brace.  He looked up at the store owner and softly replied, “Well, I don’t run so well myself, and the little puppy will need someone who understands!” *(Dan Clark, in Weathering the Storm)***

**Many lonely sailors have been cheered by the flashing signal from Minot’s light off Scituate, Massachusetts. The signal spells “I love you” in nautical code. Several years ago the Coast Guard decided to replace the old equipment. They announced that for technical reasons the new machines would be unable to flash the “I love you” message. The public protested, and the Coast Guard weakened. The old equipment remains and continues to sends its message of cheer to sailors. *(Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations, p. 756)***

**For fifty years a woman in Rotterdam tried in vain to give up smoking. Then love did what willpower had failed to accomplish for the 78-year-old woman. When her 79-year-old suitor proposed marriage – on condition that she give up cigarettes, cigars and pipes – she immediately gave them up. “Love did it,” she explained. Love is greater than willpower. The transforming power of love works miracles. It makes friends of enemies; it brings peace out of the ashes of conflict; it builds trust from the ruins of infidelity. Love is greater than hate. The positive power of love is mightier than the negative power of hate. The healing power of love is stronger than the crippling power of hate. The creative power of love is greater than the destructive power of hate. Love did it! Love can do it again. Love is the answer. *(William Arthur Ward)***

**Four out of five American songs deal with love. Of these, one of five deals with the sorrow of the separated lover trying to start over. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The young desperately crave physical affection. Howard Maxwell of Los Angeles is a man in tune with his times. So when his four-year-old daughter Melinda acquired a fixation for “The Three Little Pigs” and demanded that he read it to her night after night, Maxwell, very pleased with himself, tape-recorded the story. When Melinda next asked for it, he simply switched on the playback. This worked for a couple of nights, but then one evening Melinda pushed the storybook at her father. “Now, honey,” he said, “you know how to turn on the recorder.” “Yes,” said Melinda, “but I can't sit on its lap.” *(Glenn Van Ekeren, in The Speaker's Sourcebook , p. 248)***

**Lucy: “Now that you and I are through, Schroeder, why don’t you stop hanging around my house?” Schroeder: “This isn’t your house. This is my house!” Lucy: “It’s amazing how stupid you can be when you’re in love.” *(Charles M. Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)***

**A woman in Pittsburgh opened a restaurant and candy shop in a place where two owners had failed miserably before her. She was a brilliant success. When asked how she had succeeded in the same business where others had failed, she said: “I just loved and blessed all my customers. I loved them all as Jesus taught us to do. I love the complaining man as well as the satisfied customers. When customers leave my place I do not only invite them to come back, I silently send them a blessing of love and pray for their prosperity and happiness. When no customers are in the store I bless the people with love as they pass by on the street.” *(A Synoptic Study of the Teachings of Unity, p. 66)***

**True love says, “Love me – or I suffer!” Infatuation says, “Love me – or I’ll make YOU suffer!” *(Helen Rowland, American journalist and humorist)***

**Love makes you look taller, body language experts say. What they may mean is it inspires the slump out of a once-loveless posture. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**A small town school teacher in a New England town had a tremendous success in firing her pupils with the spark of success and well-being.  Somehow she made them believe they lived in a fine world, where a miracle could happen any morning, and they were fortunate and wonderful, with a lot of talent. Someone visited her recently, where she was retired at the age of 85. She was asked what it was that she did for students that made them go on to great success in living. She was reluctant to talk about herself, but finally, when the visitor was leaving, she said, “You know, I feel ashamed when I see all these bright modern teachers.  Compared to them, I was not very well trained. . . . You see, all I had was love” *(A Synoptic Study of the Teachings of Unity, p. 66)***

**This is a reportedly true story of a Unity woman in Kansas City. She was walking down a dark street in the neighborhood of the old Unity Society building on Tracy Street when a thug stepped out of the shadows and put a gun in her ribs, saying, “Give me your purse or I’ll plug you!” She turned and looked him right in the eyes and said, “You can’t harm me because you are God’s child and I love you.” After repeating his threat for emphasis, each time getting a similar reply, he shook his head as if she was crazy, dropped his gun and fled. *(A Synoptic Study of the Teachings of Unity)***

**Love apples: Tomatoes were once called love apples because people thought they inspired love. They were grown for food by Native Americans long before Columbus arrived. (The Diagram Group, in Funky, Freaky Facts, p. 135)**

**Oh my life would be so different if my husband would just love me like he used to. Do you love yourself like you used to? Are you letting this love flow forth through you like you used to? *(Eric Butterworth, Unity MInister)***

**Metaphysicians have always taught that the contending vibrations or “thunder” between love and wisdom cause not only acute but chronic diseases of stomach and heart. *(Charles Fillmore, in The Twelve Powers of Man, p. 134)***

**When I was a child, my grandmother died and was buried in the churchyard in Castlecomer, Ireland. The following year, I went there on holiday. One day we drove to visit relatives, I was in the back seat with my grandfather. As we passed the graveled driveway leading up to the churchyard, my grandfather, thinking he was unobserved, pressed his face against the window of the car and with a small, hidden motion of his hand, waved. It was then I came to my first understanding of the majesty and vulnerability of love. *(Herbert O’Driscoll, in A Doorway in Time)***

**On a walk with my 4-year-old grandson, I said to him, “Allen, Grandma loves you to pieces.” To my surprise, Allen looked up at me, gave me a big smile and said, “Grandma, I love you whole.” *(Susie Jeschke, in Country Extra magazine)***

**Love is no hot-house flower, but a wild plant, born of a wet night, born of an hour of sunshine; sprung from wild seed, blown along the road by a wild wind. A wild plant that, when it blooms by chance within the hedge of our gardens, we call a flower; and when it blooms outside we call a weed; but, flower or weed, whose scent and color are always wild. *(John Galsworthy, in The Man of Property)***

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