**Love - Ponderings**

**If I truly love one person I love all persons, I love the world, I love life. If I can say to somebody else, “I love you,” I must be able to say, “I love you in everybody, I love through you the world, I love in you also myself.” *(Dr. Eric Butterworth, in Unity magazine)***

**I love acting! I love soaring! I love hiking! I love reading! I love singing! Love allows you to be yourself. *(Todd Siler, in Truizms)***

**Do you love me? The answer to do you love me isn’t, I married you, didn’t I? Or, Can’t we discuss this after the ball game is through? It isn’t, Well that all depends on what you mean by “love.” Or even, Come to bed and I’ll prove that I do. The answer isn’t, How can I talk about love when the bacon is burned and the house is an absolute mess and the children are screaming their heads off and I’m going to miss my bus. The answer is yes. The answer is yes. The answer is yes. *(Judith Viorst, in Redbook)***

**I can't give you love, and you can't give me love. I can provide a radiation of consciousness which creates an environment in which you find it comfortable and convenient and relaxing so that you can love yourself. *(Eric Butterworth, in The Commitment of Love)***

**Love never dies of a natural death. It dies because we don’t know how to replenish its source, it dies of blindness and errors and betrayals. It dies of illness and wounds, it dies of weariness, or witherings, of tarnishings. *(Anais Nin, in The Four-Chambered Heart)***

**You’re making it very difficult for me to go on hating you. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**There is no difficulty that enough love will not conquer; no disease that enough love will not heal; no door that enough love will not open; no gulf that enough love will not bridge; no wall that enough love will not throw down; no wrong that enough love will not set right; it makes no difference how deeply seated may be the trouble; how helpless the outlook; how muddled the tangle; how great the mistake; a sufficient realization of love will dissolve it all -- if only you will love enough, you will be the happiest, most powerful being in the world. *(Emmet Fox)***

**The man said to God: “I have done wonderful things for the world.” God answered: “But how much did you enjoy loving.” *(David J. Seibert)***

**There's no escape: You have to give love to get love. This can seem like a platitude until you realize what it requires. It means giving love in response to coldness. It means returning anger with love. *(Mira Kirshenbaum, author and columnist)***

**Dolly kneels on her bed and prays: “. . . and I love everybody in the world, even though I don’t know some of them.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**We cannot be fully alive until we express the love we have. We don’t have to receive it from others. In fact, we can’t receive love from others! We have no room for it. All that we can do is to allow others’ love for us to be a catalyst for the release of our own love. *(Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest, p. 256)***

**There is no garment more becoming than love, no cosmetic more glamorizing. Some say that when beauty fades, love goes. Isn’t it the other way around? Beauty fades only when love is gone. *(Marjorie Holmes, in A Time to Love)***

**It is our right to hate the actions of an evil person, but because that person’s deepest self is the image of God, it is our duty to honor him or her with love. *(Abraham Isaac Kook)***

**She chased him until he caught her. But she boasted to all of her friends: “He didn't have a chance.” But neither did love have a chance. *(Eric Butterworth, in The Commitment of Love)***

**Some say they love God but not men. But how can we love harmony and not music? How can we love light and not the morning? How can we love nature and not the spring? How can we love God and not the likeness of God, which is man? *(James Dillet Freeman)***

**It is not scientific or even truthful to say “you can have anything you want.” If we could have anything we wanted – without obeying the law of Love – the world would soon be a madhouse. If selfish people could reach out and get everything they wanted, what a world this would be! How people would be grabbing for each other’s prized possessions! *(Jack H. Holland)***

**There is a Law that man should love his neighbor as himself. In a few hundred years it should be as natural to mankind as breathing or the upright gait; but if he does not learn it he must perish. *(Alfred Adler, American psychoanalyst)***

**There is a love like a small lamp, which goes out when the oil is consumed; or like a stream, which dries up when it doesn’t rain. But there is a love that is like a mighty spring gushing up out of the earth; it keeps flowing forever, and is inexhaustible. *(Isaac of Ninevah)***

**You can love a person deeply and sincerely whom you do not like. You can like a person passionately whom you do not love. *(Robert Hugh Benson, English author and clergyman)***

**The moment you have in your heart this extraordinary thing called love and feel the depth, the delight, the ecstasy of it, you will discover that the world is transformed. *(J. Krishnamurti)***

**The greatest possible way to practice non-resistance is to know that God is always present, despite whatever may seen to be. This, of course, is what is meant by LOVE. We find that all paths of freedom, understanding and expression lead to the great commandment: Love God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your might. *(Jack H. Holland)***

**God, who is the essence of love, created all creation for the purpose of love. An individual cannot love independently; it takes both a subject and an object to love. What God needs absolutely, therefore, is an object who He can love. *(Rev. Moon)***

**As I see it, we know we’re truly grown up when we stop trying to fix people. About all we can really do for people is love them and treat them with kindness. That goes for ourselves, too. That goes for ourselves especially. *(Philip Simmons)***

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**When I was a child, love to me was what the sea is to a fish: something to swim in while you are going about the important affairs of life. *(P. L. Travers, in New York Times Magazine)***

**Just for a moment, ask yourself the question, “Do I love me?” The first response may be, “Yes.  Of course I do.” Well, let’s test this further. Do you love and accept yourself when you are down as well as up, absurd as well as intelligent, a failure as well as successful, sick as well as healthy? That is the test -- to be able to love yourself all the way through, unconditionally. *(Carol Ruth Knox, in The Incredible Journey, p. 68)***

**Sometimes we believe we can love ourselves totally. So we go to work, loving it all. But then we find we cannot love some part of us, the anger or jealousy or lust. We find ourselves resisting this inability to accept. At that point, my recommendation is, “accept yourself not being accepting.” *(Carol Ruth Knox, in The Incredible Journey, p. 68)***

**Our thoughts may turn to love and loving this month . . . a good turn. Anytime we think of love, feel love or act in love we “do good.” Oddly enough, we usually think of love as involving others. Odd because the truth is that love begins and is fulfilled in US. “Others” are simply recipients. Now there’s a mind-stretching thought! *(Gerry Comstock)***

**Wit is a form of arousal. We challenge one another to be funnier and smarter. It's high-energy play. It's the way friends make love to one another. *(Annie Gottlieb, in McCall's)***

**Turn your thoughts within, and feel the warmth and support of this eternal fountain of love in which you live and have being. You are in love no matter what the conditions of your environment. You can then look about you in friendliness, knowing for all people: “I am in love with you. We are in love together.” *(Eric Butterworth, in Unity magazine)***

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