



FEBRUARY 25, 2024 | 8:40 AM

STRONGER TOGETHER
WHAT IS LOVE? (PART 2)

Battle Belongs

Johnson/Wickham

Welcome

Karen McAmis

Goodness of God WITH *Great Are You Lord*

Cash/Johnson

Make Room

Farro/White/Heideriqui/Cortazio

Sermon

Blake Bengé

Stronger Together: What Is Love? (Part 2)

Song of Response: *How Deep the Father's Love for Us*

Townend

Prayer for the Offering

Pam Ancherico

Song for the Offering

Recognition of Decisions

Blake Bengé

Announcements & Benediction

Susie Reeder

Postlude

INVITATION TO RESPOND

- Comment on Facebook
- Share this worship service on your social media
- Email a decision or prayer request to info@snydermbc.com
- As comfort and common sense allows, reach out to your next door neighbors. Be a neighbor. Share and show Christ.

Are you visiting with us today? Just scan the QR code for more info. We'd love to get to know you!



STRONGER TOGETHER
WHAT IS LOVE? (PART 2)

We are in a series entitled *Stronger Together*. We are focusing on those relationships that bring strength to those around us and to us as individuals. Loving marriages make for strong families, strong churches and strong communities, so being *Stronger Together* means wisdom in dating.

Discerning Mythical Love from Genuine Love

Mythical Love = chasing a _____.

Genuine Love = making _____.

Attractions and Interest

Mythical	Genuine
Main attraction is _____. Stays superficial.	Attraction moves from appearance to attitude; from physical to _____. 1 Peter 3:3-4
Attractors are _____ but can be strong initially.	Attractors are _____ and expanding. Strong eventually. Proverbs 31:25-31
Interest comes and goes. _____	Interest evens out and becomes consistent. _____
Overall attitude is one of _____. Exchange and owing.	Overall attitude is one of sharing and _____. Nothing owed. John 15:13; Ephesians 5:21
Blind. Places the one loved on a pedestal.	Clear-eyed. Places no one on a pedestal. Exodus 20:3

Personal Growth

Mythical	Genuine
Disorganizing and destructive effect of one's personality, passions and gifts. _____ of who they are.	A focusing and constructive effect on one's personality, passions and gifts. _____ of who they are.
Comes to live in a one person world. Number of relationships/friendships _____.	Comes to live in an expanding world. Number of relationships/friendships _____.
Many family and friends are leery of or _____ of the relationship.	Most family and friends approve. Many are _____ for you.
Disagreements _____ the relationship and tend to increase in frequency and intensity.	Disagreements create greater _____, and tend to decrease in number and lessen in intensity.

The Journey

Mythical	Genuine
Starts Fast	Starts Slowly Song of Songs 2:7, 3:5, 8:4
Fraught with frequent and severe _____. 1 Corinthians 13:4	Growing confident _____. 1 Corinthians 13:7
Dies with distance	_____ separation. It may even grow.
May end _____	It will end _____. If at all.

Whether you have been married for years, never married nor want to be, or beginning to date, we all should care about those around us who are dating.

As we give encouragement or guidance to those dating we will grow **Stronger Together**.

Resources consulted:

Sex, Love or Infatuation: How Can I Really Know? by Ray E. Stuart

Recommended Resources:

Love & Respect by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs (Book)

Sacred Marriage by Gary Thomas (Book)

What Happy Couples Know by Andy Stanley (YouTube)

TAKE IT WITH YOU

There are a lot of portrayals of love in media and have been for centuries. Plays, operas, stories passed down orally over generations, books, poetry, film, television - they all tell love stories. Our 21st century sensibilities are starting to think more critically about those tales as old as time, recognizing the unrealistic, unhealthy, unsustainable and often harmful elements present in those stories.

So, why don't we see many (if any) examples of healthy, lasting relationships built on genuine love in media? Is it because the people creating that media don't know what genuine love is? I would argue that is not the problem. The problem is that genuine love is boring. It's not boring to experience; on the contrary, it's one of the most exciting and life-giving experiences in life. It's just not all that interesting to watch. All that media listed above thrives on conflict, on drama; genuine love does not. We find humor in people taking jabs at each other; it's interesting to follow that on-again-off-again, will-they-won't-they drama. But in real life those things that make for good entertainment can tear at the fabric of a healthy relationship.

In real life genuine love is built on routines and rhythms that would make for really dull movies. Arguments and conflict that are a natural part of any relationship, but are handled with calm words of understanding and empathy do not translate into riveting entertainment. The drama necessary to draw in an audience and keep them tuned in is often toxic to real-life relationships.

So rather than looking to fairy tales or Hollywood for portrayals of healthy relationships, let's look to the real people in our lives whose relationships are strong and whose love is genuine. I am not suggesting that we eliminate those forms of entertainment from our lives entirely, rather that we keep their influence in the proper perspective.

~ Katie Herring

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPERATION INASMUCH BLITZ DAY - SATURDAY, MARCH 16: Sign up will begin this Sunday! You can check out the list of projects in this week's *The Bell* or you can go to Snyder's website.

WELCOME TEAM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Welcome Team volunteers aim to welcome and serve people on Sunday mornings! Whether it's holding a door with a smile, helping someone find a seat or handing out bulletins, our goal is to help people connect to Snyder and Discover God. If you are interested, join us **today** at 12:30 for lunch and training in the Parlor. Those already serving in this capacity are invited as well.

MILITARY CONNECTIONS DINNER: Friday, March 8: 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. Active duty military and their spouses are invited for a night of connection and encouragement. Childcare is available for 5th graders and under by reservation only. Scan the QR code in the Bell or visit www.snydermbc.com/military. RSVP by February 28.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SNYDER STUDENTS: Check out *The Bell* this week for great information about the ten scholarships available and how to apply. There is also information about additional scholarships. Deadline for applying is February 29.

OUR CHURCH SECURITY TEAM is reaching out to see if you are interested in being a part of this team. Each team member is scheduled for one Sunday each month for 1 -2 hours. Contact Ed Parker at (910) 309-8556 if you are interested.

ANNUAL SPRING GROUNDS WORKDAY: Saturday, March 2; 8:30am - 12:30pm. Families are encouraged to participate.

WE ARE HIRING:

Financial Ministry Assistant / Bookkeeper (full-time) needed in the Church Office. Contact Geron Gambill, Church Administrator at (910) 484-3191 or gerong@snydermbc.com

Custodian Help - Full-time or part-time, days or evenings/weekends. Contact Linwood Smith at (910) 624-2744 or linwoods@snydermbc.com.

HOW TO GIVE TO SNYDER MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Cash or Check

- by mail or dropping off to Finance Office
- Automated Bank Draft on the 5th or 20th of the month - contact Finance Office to acquire forms for draft set up

Online (computer, mobile phone, tablet)

- Go to www.snydermbc.com; select "Giving & Tithing | Online" from the menu; enter the information (if you are already in our database, you can login; otherwise you can continue as guest)

or

- download the "Church Life" app to your mobile phone (you must already have a username and password for AccessACS - see below - in order to use this app). There is a link on the app to give, and it will take you to AccessACS; follow the instructions

**WE EXIST TO LEAD PEOPLE TO DISCOVER GOD, DEVELOP FAITH AND DISPLAY
CHRIST-LIKE LOVE IN OUR ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS.**

Snyder Memorial Baptist Church
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