

Mary Craig

From: Mary Craig
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Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

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Maybe you've heard of the five love languages, the five ways in which love is communicated. I have put them into "T" words to remember them better: Talk (words of affirmation); Time; Tokens (gifts); Tender Loving Care (acts of service); and Touch.

What to you communicates love? Maybe you want to *hear* "I love you," and someone else wants to *see* a little "tender loving care" in acts of service. Someone else might respond to a *hug* while another wants to *taste* that chocolate or *smell* the fragrance of "love." We speak and show love with our physical senses as well as with our minds. So we may respond with: "Sounds good." "Feels good." "Looks good." "I smell love in the air." "I can't stomach that. Can you?"

Because what we communicate as love and what others receive as being loved may differ, we need to really know the object of our affection, be it people or animals or the planet or God. It takes observation, attentive and active listening, catching the lingo, thinking more about the other than self.

God is spirit. Jesus is God Incarnate; He came in the flesh both to say and to show God's love for us. Jesus' words are spirit and they are life, words coming from God's heart of love. But if words don't do it for you, Jesus also gave the planet quality time to show forth God's love. In the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son, and at the appointed time Jesus died on the cross as the sacrifice for sin that the Law of God required as payment for the penalty of sin.

Jesus' whole life demonstrated the love of God in acts of service. He taught. He healed. He touched.

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He delivered people from the powers of darkness and death and the devil. He walked and talked with people. He ate with people. He identified with the human condition. He died to make peace with God, propitiating the wrath of God as God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. Jesus rose from the dead and ever lives to make intercession for us. He is seated at the right hand of God Almighty, and He is coming again in glory for His own.

In this was manifested the love of god toward us,
 Because that God sent His only begotten Son
 Into the world, that we might live through Him.
 Herein is love, not that we loved God,
 But that He loved us, and sent His son to be
 The propitiation for our sins.
 1 John 4.9, 10

For those who find that gifts communicate love to them, God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. Jesus Himself is God's gift to us. Eternal life is a gift we receive by faith, by putting our trust in and relying on Jesus atoning death as sacrifice for our sin. This is eternal life; that we might know Him, the One True God, and Jesus Christ whom He has sent. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit also give gifts to people, spiritual gifts. God gives us life in Christ. God gives because He is the Source of all Life and Blessing.

Jesus touched many when healing them. For example, after casting out a foul spirit from a boy, the Word says, "But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose." (Mark 9.27)

Jesus blessed the children by touch: "And He took them up in His arms, put His hands upon them, and blessed them." (Mark 10.16)

Today, the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit, touches us, touches our hearts, touches us deep down where we live. We may feel that touch if we are sensitive in the Spirit.

*Now we have received, not the spirit of the world,
 But the spirit which is of God;
 That we might know the things that are freely given
 To us of God.
 1 Corinthians 3.12*

God is spirit and primarily we are talking about spiritual senses being activated to hear, see, taste, smell, and touch the Lord who is speaking, showing, touching, and filling us, sending forth in our midst His fragrance, causing us to be unto God a sweet savor of Christ. It can be a greater reality than the physical senses and physical world.

*For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh;
 But they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.
 Romans 8.5*

God is the great communicator. He will tell you of His love for you. He will show you His love for you. He will shower you with gifts. He will give you time with Him. He will touch your life with the power of His love. He's communicating His love all the time, all around you. All you need to do is look, listen, taste and see that the Lord is good, take a deep breath, and smell the fragrance of life.

Receive God's love for you today.

Think about it and marvel at the love of God which flows from His grace and graciousness, an unmerited favor bestowed upon sinners saved by that grace.

*Behold what manner of love the Father
Has bestowed upon us,
That we should be called the sons of God:
Therefore the world knows us not, because it knew Him not.
Beloved, now we are the sons of God,
And it does not yet appear what we shall be:
But we know that, when He shall appear,
We shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.
And every one that has this hope in him
Purifies himself, even as He is pure.
1 John 3.1-3*

Let's ask the Holy Spirit for the grace to love one another in truth. Let's discover what we are to be, do, or say that communicates love to God.

Mary Craig

Pastors:

Rev. Jim Craig
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