

Real Love

Just to bring a word of comfort to those of you with teenagers. There will be a day in 10-15 years when your child sits down at the kitchen table and you both laugh about the silly things they did as teenagers. My daughter and I had one of those moments recently. We were recounting how she learned a foreign language when she was in high school. Now she did not learn anything practical like Spanish, German or French. Instead she took an optional course and learned the language known as Valley Girl. Now the valley girl language is rich in expressions and just one example would be when we overheard her talking to a friend on the phone about a conversation several of them had had at school. It went something like this... And I'm all and she's all and you're all and I'm all...

Also every goodbye on the phone or in person was punctuated by the word Luvya.

Well Sue and I started to mimic her and go around the house saying luvya to each other. It sounded to us like Luvya was not a very sincere love at all. Now we adults also use the term love somewhat flippantly. We tell other we love our job we love our car and some of us would say we love to eat Mexican food.

But in the bible we find an altogether different kind of love. It is a love so self sacrificing and sincere that it defies any meaning we can put to the word Love. The bible records the events this way.

LK 22:41-44 He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

When Jesus was in the garden of Gethsemane he was praying and asking God if perhaps this task could be taken from him but not his will but God's will be done. The bible records that he was in such agony that he sweat drops of blood.

Now some skeptics have questioned if that is even possible but modern medical science has not only confirmed this as possible, but has a medical term for this condition which is hematomatosis. This is indeed possible but only occurs under the most extreme conditions of mental, emotional and physical stress and can happen when someone is facing death. One of the most famous later observers of this phenomenon was Leonardo Da Vinci who recorded in about 1500 AD seeing a soldier going into a fierce battle sweating blood. Indeed Jesus went into battle for us.

This was not a Luvya kind of love. What he did for us was a total commitment of sacrificial love. We are loved...

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