

Love Isn't Selfish

By Pastor Bill Hayden

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When a person begins a relationship with an individual, the initial desire is to have open and honest dialogue to discover what you have in common. As you converse and listen intently, things are revealed about each other's strengths and weaknesses. The more time you spend sharing your thoughts and concerns, the more you witness each other's imperfections, which can further the relationship between you or gracefully end it.

If you are willing to continue the relationship after full disclosure and transparency, you may wonder whether there is love, acceptance, and forgiveness. Your relationship may be questioned when you fail to meet the other person's expectations, and you must ask to be forgiven. The soul wrenching question that we all want to know is...Do they love me?

Sometimes, people will play games to test the other person's commitment, especially when trust is broken. Also, when a person is insecure, the relationship will always be about one person continuing to be pressured, to prove their love.

Real love doesn't allow you to have everything you want or need from another person. We are all broken people looking for fulfillment from other broken people. The best we can expect from one another is to be loved, accepted with faults, and forgiven when we genuinely repent and do better.

If God is the source of all love, and we want to know how to love, shouldn't we look to Him? There is no better example that we can find than the text... *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* {Romans 5:8 NKJV} It takes God to love those considered enemies and His love and grace within us to love each other with our imperfections. Love without sacrifice is not real love. People who love each other are willing to sacrifice for each other's welfare.

May your quest to find true love begin with the God of all love and receive grace to love others as He loves you.

Celebrate with us at the Villages Community Chapel in Cribari Auditorium, every Sunday at 10 a.m. to be encouraged over the Word of Life, enjoy a cup of coffee and cookies with friends. The chapel is a place for needs to be met, faith to be affirmed and new friends to embrace. You can view our worship services on YouTube at Villages Community Chapel or www.Villagescommunitychapel.vgcc.club