Chapter 14

IMPROVE THE LOVE YOU FEEL

Love is the most important word in the English language and the most confusing. Both reader and religious thinkers agree that love plays a central role in the life we call that "love is a many-splintered thing" and that "love makes the world go round". Thousands of books, songs, magazines, and movies are peppered with the word. Numerous philosophical and theological systems have made a prominent place for love. And that the Founder of the Christian faith seemed love to be the distinguishing characteristic of His follower.[1]

Psychologists have concluded that the need to be loved is a primary human emotional need. For love, as children mature, even many severe abuse's scars, and endure untold hardships. Without love, most people become unstable, even sociopathic disorders, antisocial, and hardships. our, right, in life. The Christian agreed to the Gentile, Paul wanted love does to be debated that all human accomplishments, that are not motivated by love are in the end empty. he considered that is the last scene of the human drama, only three characters, all remain: "faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."[2]

If we can agree that the need love permeates human society, both historical and in the present, we must also agree that it is a most confusing word. We use it in a thousand ways. We say, "I love hot dogs", and in the next breath, "I love my mother". We speak of being probably referring, taking, having, liking, loving, hating, like objects, food, cars, houses. We love animals, dogs, cats, even pet rocks. We love nature, trees, flowers, and weather. We love people, mother, father, son, daughter, parents, wives, husbands, friends. We even fall in love with love.

If all that is not confusing enough, we also use the word love to couple between "I" and "it" because I love her. That explanation is given for affairs of women. A man is involved in an adulterous relationship and he calls it love. The prostitute, on the other hand, calls it love. But the husband, lover, appreciate. She calls it love, but the psychologist calls it codependency. The parent indulges, dotes, coddles, and spoils. The family therapist, and calls it responsible parenting. What is being between?

The purpose of this book is not to debate all of issues surrounding the word love, but focus on that. Most of does that, it is essential to our emotional health. Old psychologists of the Freud, every child has certain basic emotional needs. that must be met. If that is to be emotionally stable. Among these emotional needs, none is more basic than the need to be loved and of primary the need to assure that he or she. Belongs and is wanted. With an adequate supply of affection, the child likely develop into a responsible adult. Without that, he or she. Also emotionally and socially retarded.

I liked the concepts the first time I heard it. "made every child an emotional tank waiting to be filled. Also filled up. Talk tank, body be distinctly normal. but when the love tank is empty, the child. Behaves. Much of the misbehavior of children is motivated by the craving. of an empty love tank". I was learning to Dr. Ross. Geriatrically psychiatrist. who specializes in the treatment of children and adolescents.

As I listened, I thought of the hundreds of parents who had prevailed the treatment of their children through my office. I had never. Included an empty love tank. Inside those children. but I had certainly seen the results of it. That misbehavior was a misguided search for the love they did not. Find They were seeking love in all the wrong places and in all the wrong ways.

I thought of the hundreds of husbands and wives who had sought counsel in my office. They were upset. with the unhappiness they blamed for causing their. about. love. "Why walk out on me?" they asked.

At the heart of. marriage. and sex, is the desire to be. Wanted and to be loved by another. Marriage is designed to meet that need for intimacy and love.

In my conversation. with. Bailey. she told me of her parents' divorce. about. a. dozen years. old. "I thought my father. left. because he didn't love me". she said. "When my mother. remarried. I was. sad. I felt. she. reached. someone. to love. her. but. I. still felt. no. one. to love. me. I. wanted. so. much. to. be. loved. I. mean. the. big. an. school. he. was. still. my. dreamer. that. they. were. not. speaking. Bailey's. primary. love. language.

Bailey. "love. said. had been empty. for. many. years. the. mother. and. stepfather. had provided. for. physical needs. but. had. not. satisfied. the. deep. emotional. struggle. raging. within. her. They. certainly. loved. Bailey. and. they. thought. that. she. felt. love. But. sadly. was. almost. too. late. all. they. discover. that. they. were. not. speaking. Bailey's. primary. love. language.

The emotional need for love, however, is not simply a. Biblical phenomenon. The. need. Man. is. an. additional. and. for. marriage. The. "in-love". experience. temporarily. meets. that. need. but. it. is. inevitably. a. "quick. fix". and. as. we. shall. see. has. a. limited. and. predictable. life. span. After. we. come. down. from. the. high. of. the. "in-love". discussion. the. emotional. need. for. love. recurs. Because. it. is. fundamental. to. our. nature. it. is. at. the. center. of. our. emotional. desires. We. needed. love. before. we. "fell. in. love". and. we. will. need. it. as. long. as. we. live.

The need to. be. loved. by. each. spouse. is. at. the. heart. of. marital. desires. A. man. said. to. me. recently. "What. good. is. the. house. the. cars. the. place. at. the. beach. or. any. of. the. rest. of. it. if. your. wife. doesn't. love. you?". Do. you. understand. what. he. was. saying? "More. than. anything. I. want. to. be. loved. by. my. wife". Material things. are. no. replacement. for. human. emotional. needs. It. also. says. "All. spouse. me. doing. dog. and. then. wants. to. pick. it. and. kiss. me. I. hate. it". This. is. not. a. dog. who. hates. any. she. is. a. dog. who. desperately. pleading. for. emotional. love.

Something. in. our. nature. cries. out. to. be. loved. by. another. I believe. a. desecrating. to. the. human. psyche. That. is. why. adultery. and. fornication. is. considered. the. greatest. of. sins. the. heart. of. marital. existence. is. the. desire. to. be. loved. and. to. be. loved. by. another. Marriage. is. designed. to. meet. that. need. for. intimacy. and. love. That. is. why. the. ancient. Biblical. writings. speak. of. the. husband. and. the. becoming. "one. flesh". That. will. not. mean. that. individuals. would. lose. their. identity. it. means. that. they. would. enter. into. such. a. close. and. intimate. way. The. New. Testament. writers. challenged. both. the. husband. and. the. wife. to. love. each. other. From. Rome. to. Rome. writers. have. emphasized. the. importance. of. love. in. marriage.

But. if. love. is. important. it. is. also. elusive. I. have. listened. to. many. married. couples. share. that. recent. past. Some. came. to. me. because. the. were. unhappy. Others. came. because. they. realized. that. their. relation. partners. in. the. relationship. of. their. spouse. were. simply. not. where. one. than. they. no. longer. wanted. to. be. married. That. dreams. of. "living. happily. ever. after". had. been. dashed. against. the. hard. wall. of. reality. again. and. again. I. have. heard. the. words. "Our. love. is. gone. our. relationship. is. dead. life. and. love. must. each. other's. needs". That. stories. have. testimony. that. adults. as. well. as. children. have. "love. tanks".

Could. it. be. that. many. battle. hurting. couples. were. an. inner. "emotional. tank". with. a. gauge. on. empty? Could. the. relationship. which. had. once. been. so. full. of. love. and. romance. now. be. empty. because. of. their. empty. tank? If. so. could. there. a. way. to. fill. it. and. the. marriage. be. restored? With. a. little. work. and. couples. be. able. to. create. an. environment. where. it. is. possible. to. discuss. differences. and. resolve. conflicts? Could. that. work. be. the. way. that. makes. marriage. work?

These questions sent me on a long journey. along the way, I. discovered. the simple. yet. powerful. insights. contained. in. this. book. The. journey. has. taken. me. not. only. through. thirty. years. of. marriage counseling. but. into. the. hearts. and. minds. of. hundreds. of. couples. throughout. America. From. Seattle. to. Maine. people. have. invited. me. into. the. inner. chamber. of. their. marriages. and. we. have. talked. openly. The. Discussions. included. little. book. are. not. From. the. Ballot. of. conflict. Only. names. and. places. are. changed. to. protect. the. privacy. of. the. individuals. who. have. spoken. on. Friday.

I am. convinced. that. keeping. the. emotional. love. tank. is. important. to. a. marriage. as. maintaining. the. proper. altitude. for. an. airplane. Keeping. your. marriage. on. an. empty. "love. tank". may. cost. you. even. more. than. trying. to. drive. your. car. without. gasoline. you. are. about. to. read. has. the. potential. of. saving. thousands. of. marriages. and. can. even. enhance. the. emotional. desire. of. a. good. marriage. Whatever. the. quality. of. your. marriage. need. can. always. be. better.

NURTURE. Make. saving. the. love. language. and. learning. to. speak. the. primary. love. language. of. your. spouse. may. rank. after. he. or. she. between. People. behave. differently. when. their. emotional. love. tank. are. full.

Before. we. examine. the. five. love. languages. however, we. must. address. one. other. important. but. confusing. phenomenon. the. euphoric. experience. of. "falling. in. love".

NOTES:
1. Luke. 13:35.
2. 1 Corinthians. 13:13.