

## Chapter Seven

# Love

Love is the third car on our little home express. If you lose this car, stop your training! Without LOVE, neither you nor your children will ever make it. Obedience won't work, work won't work, and communication and togetherness won't work. Nothing will operate in a home without love.

David Wilkerson says, "If there is a thread that has run through my own experience with parents and children, it is the thread of love in homes that produced our 'goodniks.'"<sup>4</sup>

### Love Them and Let Them Know It

Another significant conclusion that Grace Langdon and Irving Scott reached in their study of the four hundred fourteen well-adjusted children was that each child was loved beyond any shadow of a doubt. When these children's parents were asked what it was in their child's home life that caused the good adjustment, they put it variously in such comments as these:

" 'Love is the biggest thing you can give a child.' 'We feel you have to appreciate them and believe in them, and we do.' 'When you give out the right kind of love, you get the children's love in return and you are all the better for it.' 'They were planned, we wanted them, and they know it.' 'You have to trust children if you want them to amount to anything.' 'Our children are taught to respect us but we respect them, too.' One mother said, 'To sum the whole thing up, we think love, security, and good home life can



be counted on to produce well-adjusted children.' Another said, 'We have a lot of fun with the boys; we love them beyond words, and if I could choose one thing beyond all else for them it would be that they marry and be as happy in their home life as we are, and I think that's why they are well adjusted.' Still another said, 'Children need a lot of love and attention and then other things work out.'

"They made it amply clear that they did not rely on these feelings and attitudes alone to produce the good adjustment - - they did things about it - - actively, vigorously, purposefully, but what they did and the way they did it varied so widely as to give added significance to their statements that they believed the underlying feeling to be the causative factor rather than either the procedures or the methods. The southern Illinois parents were in full agreement with the Milwaukee and New York ones whose viewpoint was summed up in the words of the father who said, 'But most important of all is loving them and letting them know it, thinking of them as people and treating them so, appreciating what they do and trusting them and telling them so, and above all letting them know they are wanted.'"<sup>16</sup>

#### Devastating Consequences

Truly, the absence of love in the life of any human being has devastating consequences. Alfred Adler, an internationally known psychiatrist, has said, after analyzing thousands of patients, "*A lack of love is found in all human failures.*"

Literally hundreds of juvenile delinquents have traced their lives of crime and irresponsibility back to the day they found out that their father or mother or both had no love for them. Nicky is such an example. His life of hate and trouble began when he was four years old. One morning his mother had a group of ladies at their house for tea, and he was playing quietly on the back porch. During the ladies' conversation, Nicky overheard his mother say, "We did not really want Nicky; I wish he had never been born."<sup>4</sup>

Nineteen of the twenty-one GI's who went over to Communism after the Korean war also felt unloved by their fathers or step-fathers.<sup>21</sup>

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When love is not present in the life of a young person, every taxpaying citizen in the country can pay the consequences. One way this is done is by having to provide institutional care for disturbed youth.

Indian Ridge Youth Camp is just one example of the hundreds of such facilities. Sixteen to eighteen-year-old boys are committed there by juvenile courts. The superintendent of that institution said, "Love is a major need of these boys. Their parents will give them a car, but won't say, 'I love you.'" That makes the words, "I love you," very costly. Human life is the greatest cost, but each boy sent to such an institution costs the remaining citizens ten to eleven thousand dollars annually. (This is one reason I believe in prevention and teaching parents how to parent. If these young people's parents had been taught proper parenting principles, think of the grief, time, talents, money and lives that could be salvaged.)

The most extreme example of a lack of love and its consequences I have ever read about was the case of the Lebensborn babies. The Nazi Germans had a project during World War II. They wanted to produce superior children and rear them away from any "weakening family influence." These babies were conceived by selected Nordic males and Aryan girls. They were then placed at the Lebensborn Baby Farm. After the war, Dr. Hellbruegge of the Munich University Pediatric Clinic examined a group of these Lebensborn babies before they were adopted. He recalls: "They were blond and blue-eyed, but completely emaciated. When you went close to them, they showed the empty stares of idiots."\*

#### "The Greatest of These Is Love"

*Love, beyond all doubt, is the greatest need in the life of any child.* I Corinthians 13, the love chapter of the Bible, says the greatest of all is LOVE.

Love is a unique ingredient in that there can never be too much. Too much correction, work, or independence can be harmful, but of love, the more the merrier.

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\* Adapted, with permission.<sup>15</sup>



Love builds three essential ingredients in a child. It builds acceptance, security, and confidence. Dr. Drieker says, "The need to belong or to be accepted is the basic human motivation."\* To be loved and to love gives a child the feeling of really belonging to someone. It brings the security which is necessary for possessing confidence.

"Subtract parental love from the parent-child relationship, and the child lacks the feeling of acceptance. He feels frustrated in his desire to belong."<sup>21</sup>

Young people who engage in illicit sex generally give the same reasons for doing it. They don't feel loved and accepted at home; so they are on a search for acceptance. To a human being, "Someone has got to care about me. I've got to have an important place in someone's life."

#### "Mamma, I Cried Last Night"

One of our adopted darlings is the closest personal experience I ever had to a life without love. She came to live with us at the tender age of three years and nine months. She was scared, hungry, and without clothes. Her body had been seared with lighted cigarettes, and the many scars that marked her flesh were evidence of severe mistreatment. She was afflicted further - - with worms, boils, and a staph infection.

Love had never been a part of her experiences. When we would pick her up to show her affection, there would be absolutely no response. She was as unresponsive to our hugs and kisses as a twenty-five-pound bag of sugar. She would only look into our faces with a puzzled expression, as if to say, "What are you doing to me?"

Clothes closets had been a hiding place for her protection from a drunken father; consequently, she was very fearful of a father image. In the mornings, or when our Daddy came in from work, she would run and hide behind the couch or cling to my skirt.

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\*From *Logical Consequences* by Dreiker & Gray. Meredith Press, New York, New York, 1968.

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We took care of her medical needs, fed and clothed her, fixed her a little room, and began to show her what love was all about. Over a period of time, she began to respond. I even kept her out of kindergarten and worked with her at home to help build her security.

But, for over three years, she knew she was a foster child. All our affection and trying to assure her verbally of our love was just simply not enough. Being in a preacher's family and around a lot of people, she had known foster children who had come and gone. She had reasoned, "I am a foster child, too, and I'm not really permanent here either."

Her insecurity was evident in many ways, but one day in our conversation she revealed to me by saying, "Mamma, I lay awake and cried last night." I had worked hard to establish good communication with her; so I replied, "Oh, honey, I'm so sorry. What was the matter?" She sensed my concern and asked, "Mamma, what would happen to me if you and Daddy would die?"

Over the many months, she had captured our hearts, and we began to realize more and more that her welfare was at stake. Somehow we had to relieve her of this burden of insecurity. She was definitely not developing properly. Her feeling that she was only temporary in our family was an invisible monster that was overshadowing her whole life and development.

We contacted our lawyer and told him that somehow we must be freed to tell her once and for all, "You are ours, and no one can ever come and take you away." He started immediate proceedings to get her relinquished for adoption. With all the laws and red tape with which we were required to contend, it took six months before we knew the adoption was going to be made final.

The night finally arrived when we sat down with her and told her that a wonderful thing was about to happen in our family. She was very eager to know what the exciting event was that was about to happen. When we told her that we were going to adopt her, I shall never forget her reaction. She jumped up and down and squealed and danced all around the room. She smothered us with hugs and



kisses and repeatedly said, "Oh, Daddy and Mamma, I have wanted this to happen for so long. I'm so glad you are going to adopt me."

The adoptive case worker had impressed on us the importance of taking her to court to appear before the judge so that she could witness her adoption. On the appointed day we went to court. She saw the adoption papers signed, and pictures were taken. That day was the beginning, in her life, of experiencing acceptance, security, and confidence.

By this time, she was in the latter part of her second year in grade school. I knew she was basically an intelligent child, but her academic performance had been barely average. After her adoption, an incredible thing happened. In her overall subjects, she made nine months of educational growth in three months' time. She advanced so rapidly that in the second grade she was able to read at a 6.7 grade level on her end-of-school reading test.

She was accepted. She knew she belonged. It gave her confidence. *SHE WAS LOVED!* When she is grown, I hope the tragic events of her early life will have faded from her memory. It is my prayer that she will have a childhood memory of love and happiness and can say, in the words of the poet, "Backward, turn backward, O time, in your flight. Make me a child again, just for tonight!"\*

Yes, LOVE - - it's far more than meets the eye.

### Love Is Indescribable

Wendell Broom wrote, "A mother tells her starry-eyed daughter, 'Honey, you don't know what love is.' " Mother is right. The girl doesn't know. And it is no wonder she doesn't, because mother doesn't know herself. To try to express love in one word is as impossible as trying to hold a dozen oranges in one hand.\*

Love can't be described in words. Poets, writers, and scholars have tried for centuries and have never been successful. I know I would be far less successful than they.

\* Used by permission.<sup>15</sup>

### Three Levels

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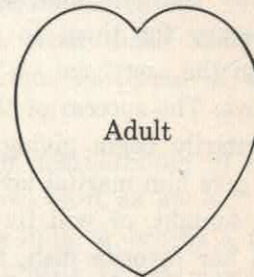
\* Used by permission.

**Three Levels of Love**

Even though it is impossible to put love into one cluster of words, it is within reason to try to explain different stages and growth of love as evidenced in life. There are three levels of love that I should like to describe.

**THREE LEVELS OF LOVE**

<i>Possessive</i> (Basically selfish)*	<i>Conditional</i> (Still self-seeking)*	<i>Sacrificial</i> (Unselfish level)*
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I want you;  
therefore, I  
love you.\*

I need you;  
therefore, I love you.\*

You need me;  
therefore, I love you.\*

**POSSESSIVE LOVE**



A possessive love is love in its infant stage. It says, "I want you, and that is why I love you." This stage is where everyone has to begin walking the road of love. A little child portrays this selfish degree of love when he clings to his mother, pushing his brother and sisters away, and saying, "This is *my* Mommy, and you can't have her."

The possessive stage of love is also recognized in a new romance. A young man may observe many young ladies on a college campus before a certain one takes his eye. He makes arrangements to meet her, because she has all of the charms that especially appeal to

\* Used by permission.<sup>20</sup>



him. After developing an acquaintance, he decides she is just what he has always dreamed of in a wife. As their relationship grows, his love will graduate into a more mature state: "I love you, because I need you." He realizes more and more that he needs her to make his life complete. He can see all that she has to offer for his complete happiness.

Marriage usually takes place while both are at the conditional stage of their love development. She is thinking of all he can do for her, and he is thinking of the multitude of blessings she is going to bring him.

After they are married, and in order to remain happy, it becomes necessary for them to continue to grow in their love. They must attain the sacrificial - - "You need me; therefore, I love you" - - level of love. The success of their marriage will depend upon it. They must voluntarily begin giving of themselves for their partner's sake. She will give him marital love, not because she feels especially like making love tonight, or will fix him beef stroganoff for supper, not because it is her favorite dish, but these are favors he desires. He will take her out for dinner or home to see her parents, not because he delights in getting out for the evening or making a long journey, but because these are considerations that will promote her happiness and well-being.

A possessive level of love may be natural for children or beginning lovers to have, but when parents do not portray a higher form of love, it becomes destructive. A couple may want a baby very badly, and after it is born they may cherish, adore, and treat it like a new toy. But soon, after the new wears off and they see the time and devotion rearing a child is going to require, they may not want to be bothered. If their love does not graduate into the more mature stages, the child's best interests will not be served. Parents possessing a selfish love that is first concerned with their own interests and self-seeking goals will ruin a child.

Their child will be treated like a little sapling in the forest. By misfortune, it sprang up too close to a giant pine. It has to live in a cramped and unwanted position and is never allowed to extend its branches and grow.<sup>21</sup>

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## CONDITIONAL LOVE



A conditional love is love in the adolescent stage. It is more noble than the possessive love, but it is still self-seeking. It carries with it the idea, "I'll love you as long as you please me," and "I'll love you as long as you meet my needs."

Dr. Homan says, "It is far too common for young children to be given the impression that their parents love them because of what they do."<sup>6</sup> Now, if you don't do, I won't love you.

### Two Common Ways Parents Portray Conditional Love

There are two common mistakes parents often make that will cause a conditional love to be registered within the mind of their child.

(1) *By condemning their person instead of disapproving of their wrong action.* "You clumsy kid! You're as awkward as an ox," can often be the reaction when a child spills his milk or breaks a good dish. How much better it would be to say, "Milk is too expensive to waste like this. You will have to drink water." Or "Those are the nicest dishes we have. When they are all gone, we will just be without."

With these statements, a child will do his own mental condemning. He will reason, "I had better try to be more careful. The next time I pick up my milk or a dish, I'll do it carefully."

On one occasion when I was teaching in public school, I had a little girl who was misbehaving to the point that I had to speak to her after school about it. I remember using this approach of not striking at her person, but at the wrong thing she was doing. I said, "Janet, I love you, and there are so many nice things about you. But our class is always being interrupted. Your talking and giggling is making me very unhappy. Do you think there is anything you could do about this?" She was very much impressed that I loved her and that it was the talking I didn't like. She went home and told her mother about it, and her mother later mentioned it to me in a parent-teacher conference.



Let's consider three examples of how we can disapprove of a child's behavior without degrading him as a human being:

<i>Suppose A Child</i>	<i>DON'T SAY</i>	<i>DO SAY</i>
(1) Is hitting another child	You are a bad boy and I know you will end up being a criminal.	Hitting and slapping other people is very unkind. I do not approve of those actions.
(2) Tells a lie	You are a liar and I will probably visit you in prison some day.	Telling untrue things is very wrong. A lie cannot go uncorrected.
(3) Steals something	Why, I didn't know I was rearing a thief!	Taking things that don't belong to you is stealing. God doesn't approve of that, and I don't either. It will have to be returned with an apology.

By aiming the disapproval at the wrongdoing instead of at the personality, you convey to the child, "I bother to correct your behavior because I love you."

(2) *By showing approval more for a child's doing than for his being* is a second way we convey a conditional love to our children.

Parents generally react favorably to a good report card or to a kind and thoughtful act on a child's part. But it is more important that the child receive the greater measure of praise and approval unrelated to his achievements and successes.<sup>6</sup>

A child should receive a word of praise, a hug and kiss, or a pat on the head when he brings home a good report. But he should get cuddled, kissed, admired, and told, "I love you," more often for doing absolutely nothing. He should receive the greater reward just because he is himself and you enjoy the privilege of his presence.<sup>6</sup>

When parents fall down to a conditional love, they will often make two additional mistakes. I want to insert these two warnings at this point.

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(a) *Don't compare your children.* "Now, just look at big brother. See how well he can read." Or, "You ought to be ashamed of yourself. Look how much better your little sister does that than you do." This mistake will cause jealousy, strife, and sibling rivalry that will carry throughout their lives.

(b) *Don't play favorites.* This, too, is brought on by lowering to a conditional love. One child may be more obedient and personable than the others. Parents' favoring that child is a certain way to hurt the child. Again, it causes resentment and conflict that will last a lifetime.

A conditional love is not a mature enough love to use in building a child. We must graduate to a higher level of love, in which the parents are big enough to see beyond themselves and their own selfish desires.

### SACRIFICIAL LOVE



Sacrificial love is Jesus' agape love and the level of love we must seek to achieve as parents. It is love in its fullest maturity, one that asks, "What can I do to help make your life better?" When parents reach this level of love, they have matured to the point that *they seek the ultimate good of the loved one.* Once parents reach this degree of love, they will be ready to assist and do whatever is necessary to bring about the best for their child.

*Parental love must be a love for the child's sake.*<sup>21</sup> Dr. Homan says, "This love is most vital during the first ten years of a child's life."<sup>6</sup>

#### Sacrificial Love on the Prairie

A pioneer woman of long ago was a living example of a mother who loved her children with a sacrificial love, love for the child's sake. The lady and her husband had settled on the prairie to rear their family and try to make a living.

The Lord had so far blessed them with healthy children and they were anxiously awaiting the arrival of another little one. The day came that she gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. A neighbor lady had come in a covered wagon to assist with the birth and help in



any other way she could. It was after everything was taken care of and the lady was cleaning the child that she noticed something was wrong with her foot. One little foot was perfect, but the other was turned in a horizontal position.

Several days later the old country doctor was traveling through the area. He knew this woman was expecting a baby; so he made a special stop to see how she was getting along. When she showed him the baby's foot, he told her that if she didn't want the child to be a cripple, there was only one thing she could do. She must start giving therapy treatments immediately. These were the instructions of the doctor: "Hold her in your lap and force her foot frontward one hundred times daily. Do this without fail."

While the little bones were pliable, that mother sat down to carry out the doctor's instructions. At the first turn of the foot, the pain was so intense that the baby gave a piercing scream. Bravely, the mother turned the foot again and again and again, counting as she went. As the baby writhed in pain, tears poured down that mother's cheeks, blinding her vision, but she didn't give up. Day after day she administered this painful therapeutic treatment. Weeks and months passed by, and she could gradually see the little foot beginning to straighten.

This mother's heart was gladdened and she received the rewards that accompany a sacrificial love when the day came that she looked out her kitchen window and saw her child running and playing in the sunshine as normally as the other children. Even though it had been heartbreaking for her to have to give the painful treatment, she accomplished that which was best for her little girl and her future life.

#### **For the Good Of - - Not Goods For**

Professor Hellbruegge, the German pediatrician, said the children born at the Nazis' World War II Lebensborn baby farms were mentally and physically backward because of lack of parental care. He says a similar fate threatens many children today when both of their parents go to work. Dr. Hellbruegge says that many modern mothers "think they have to go on working so they can make enough money to spend

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on the children, for better dresses and playrooms. They put the children into day schools - - I think they should be called 'day orphanages' - - and then they wonder why the children do not thrive."\*

Sacrificial love is not seeking the ultimate *goods* for the loved one, but it is seeking the ultimate *good* of the loved one. Too often these days, parents lavish material things on their children. Possessions come to mean love.

Ruth Bell Graham relates this true story:<sup>22</sup>

In a little town in Florida there was an unpretentious home for small, unwanted boys. Having little of this world's goods, the kindly matron made it up to them the best way she knew how. She loved them, mothered them, fed them, spanked them, taught them to love God, to read their Bibles (those old enough to read, that is), to say their prayers. She laughed with them, listened sympathetically to their troubles (even while she stirred the soup), made her corrections few, her exhortations brief, and then she loved them some more.

One day a well-to-do lady from a distant city came to see about adopting a boy. Everyone was pleased and happy for the fortunate little boy who was going to have such a fine home - - such a successful man for a father and such a beautifully dressed, bejeweled and befurred lady for a mother.

The lady smiled down at the small boy and asked, "Do you have a bicycle?"

"No, ma'am."

"Well," she promised. "we will buy you one. And have you roller skates?"

"An old pair," he replied.

"We'll buy you a lovely new pair. And tell me, have you a transistor radio?"

The boy looked puzzled. "I haven't got any radio at all," he said.

"Well, never mind, we'll get you one."

\* Used with permission.<sup>15</sup>

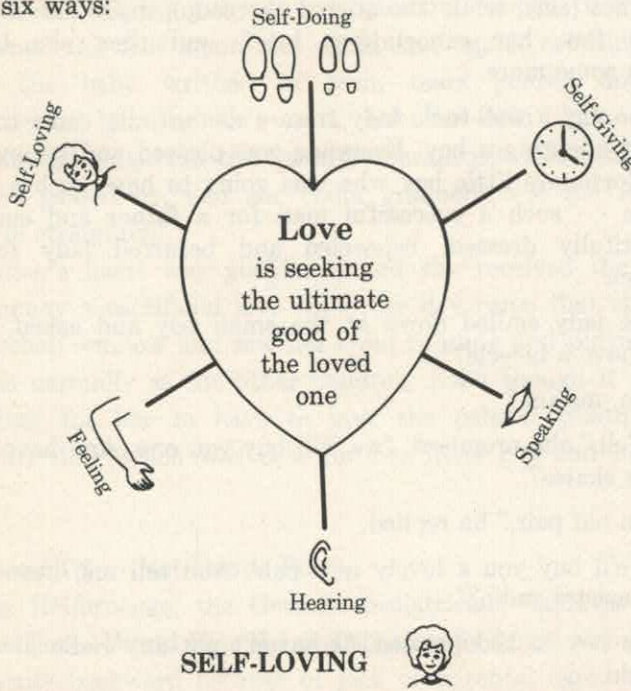


Still puzzled, the small boy studied her solemnly - - then blurted: "Please, ma'am, if that's all you're going to give me, I'd rather stay here."

**Love Is Like Electricity**

One way to determine whether love is present in a family is by witnessing the effects of its presence. Love reminds me of electricity. Just as I can't explain love in words, neither can I tell you what electricity is. I can't see electricity; but if it's present, I can surely see the effects of it. If I stick my finger in a plug-in, I can even feel the effects of its presence.

Love is like electricity in that it is a living, active power. If it is present, our children will witness it in more than one way. If we sacrificially love our children, it will radiate forth in at least the following six ways:



The first important aspect to notice about loving is the fact that children will experience and receive no healthier love than that which their parents have for themselves. R. Lofton Hudson said, "One

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of the most significant findings of modern psychology is that people cannot love others unless they first have a healthy self-love.<sup>23</sup>

Eric Fromm, in his book *The Art of Loving*, says, "The love for my own self is inseparably connected with the love for any other being."<sup>24</sup> Jesus said the second great commandment is, "*Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.*" Matthew 22:39. How can one love his neighbor or his child as himself if he doesn't first love himself? The answer is very obvious - - he can't.

Sincere parents are often overcritical with their children, and the basic reason lies in the fact that the parents don't have a good self-image. Dr. Bruce Narramore says, "It takes about one hundred compliments to make up for one criticism."<sup>25</sup>

There was a school teacher who had a student with real problems. The boy didn't like himself; in fact, he hated himself. Every morning he went through the same ritual of throwing his hat and coat on the floor. The teacher would have to say, "Pick up your coat and hat, Johnny." This went on for weeks. One morning the teacher had a surprise of his life when Johnny came in and voluntarily hung up his coat and hat. He looked around to the teacher and said, "I like myself today."

Do you like yourself today and manifest a healthy self-love? ♀

### SELF DOING

The second way we radiate the presence of our love is by working to provide the physical needs of our children. Daddy devotes a day's work in order financially to afford food, clothing, shelter, a car, doctor's care, a few toys, and other items that cannot be done without. Mother works at shopping and cooking the food nutritiously, sewing, cleaning and mending the clothes, decorating and keeping the house clean and attractive, taking care of the children when they are sick, teaching them to take care of their toys, clothes, and personal belongings, and the many other things too numerous to mention.

Within the footsteps of providing "things," as we have earlier mentioned, is the majority of parents' proof that they love their children. True, it is a big step in expressing our love, but there is



far more to showing a child you love him than just showering him with tangible things.

### SELF GIVING



Third, our children will know of the existence of our love by our willingness to give them of ourselves. This can be shown only through the personal contact of sharing, laughing, singing, talking, playing, working, and listening together. All of this takes *TIME* and cannot be accomplished in any other way than by being in the presence of our children.

A mother will sacrificially love her children by staying home and giving them of her time and attention and not hiring someone else to do it for her. A daddy will come straight home after a day's work to take special time to play and do things with his family. As everyone settles down for the night, they feel the protective presence of a strong and loving father. And only a loving daddy and mother will ever take the time to demand the best performance from the children. They will not handle their children's chores and responsibilities for them, but will see to it that they do them for themselves.

#### "Switching Price Tags"<sup>22</sup>

"I'm sure you remember the story of the hoodlums who broke into the department store one night; but it bears retelling. They didn't steal or destroy anything. They just had a wonderful time - - switching price tags. The next morning customers were puzzled and delighted to find fur coats selling for \$5. Cold cream was priced at \$150. A silver service was marked \$1.75 and a pair of ladies' hose \$390. There were umbrellas for \$1,000 and diamond rings for \$2.

"Has something come into our lives and switched the price tags? Are 'things' of more value than the time we spend together? Are material gifts worth more than gifts of the spirit?

"Do we place high price tags on the community rather than on the family? On personal pleasures, rather than the needs of those we love? On a TV program, rather than family prayers?

"When our husbands ask more of us, do we offer a leather lounge chair instead?

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"When our children long for love and sympathy, do we put them off with a pair of roller skates?"

### SPEAKING, HEARING, AND FEELING

Lastly, our children will know the presence of our love when we express it through our senses of speaking, hearing, and feeling. From what I have read and experienced, these three areas of communicating love are the most sadly neglected.

One young man said of his home: "One thing I regret about my home is the fact that love was very rarely expressed openly. I am certain that deep love was felt for the other family members, but somehow it was seldom put into words. I think this has stood in my way as I have tried to enter into deep personal relationships."<sup>25</sup>

A hug, a kiss, an arm around the shoulder, or being tucked in bed - all are important ways parents can convey to a child that "I care about you." Children never outgrow the need for physical demonstration of love. The human touch is necessary for emotional development. Too much can never be said about the need for the human touch.\*

Dr. Rene Spitz, a New York psychoanalyst, spent three months observing babies in a foundling home. The nursing staff was so busy that the babies had only one-tenth of a mother. Dr. Spitz estimated that thirty percent of the babies died before they were a year old.<sup>21</sup>

#### With the Lips, Ears, Arms, and Hands

We can communicate our love with our lips. We can: (1) *Give affectionate kisses.* (2) *Say, "I love you."* A dozen times a day wouldn't be too many. George Eliot has said, "We need not only to be loved, but to be told we are loved. The realm of silence is large enough beyond the grave." A favorite phrase at our house is, "I love you, and don't forget it." One of our children really made use of this when she was smaller. When she was off to bed, on the phone to grandmothers, or off to school, she would remind us repeatedly that she loved us. (3) *Give words of praise.* Praise is

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a confidence builder. It's a superior way to communicate love to a child. Speak it aloud to strangers, to relatives, and to your mate - - all within presence or earshot of the child.

An individual who is praised and made to feel adequate and valuable as a child will become an adult who has confidence in himself and possesses a healthy self-esteem. He will not be a person who is on a constant search for recognition and brags of every small accomplishment. Self-praise, a weakness found in many adults, is condemned by God. "*Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.*" Proverbs 27:2. We can help our children to be immune to feelings of inferiority in adulthood by furnishing them amply with positive and sincere praise when they are small.

With the ears, our love communication is received. The words, "I love you," are heard and the words of praise are received. With the arms and hands we can give hugs, squeezes, caresses, and love pats.

Speaking of communicating our love with our hands and arms, I should like to make two suggestions to new mothers: (1) Always hold your baby close in your arms every time he nurses from a bottle. It is unnatural for a baby to be put in bed to a propped-up bottle. (2) Hold him in your arms and rock him to sleep for at least one of his sleeping times every day. A child who receives a sufficient amount of cuddling and loving will not have to turn his affections to a security blanket or teddy bear, or resort to carrying a bottle everywhere he goes.

And please don't forget that *the most effective time to communicate your love to your child is when he is actually doing or producing nothing.*

### Have an Affectionate Family

Showing affection was a sure ingredient in the winners' homes. I know from my own experience that an affectionate, love-communicating family is a rarity. I personally had the unique opportunity of growing up in an affectionate family. I suppose we were one of the kissing-est families in our community. We always expressed our love to each

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other and still do. I would bring friends home to meet my family, and they often made comments about the love they saw radiating there. Such comments as, "I never saw my daddy and mother kiss each other in my life, and they never kissed me;" or, "I never heard my folks tell each other that they loved each other," have made me know that coming from a family which expressed its love was a very select experience.

### Be the Generation That Breaks the Family Tradition

A story is told of two young boys walking home from school. "I've carried her books twice and bought her ice cream once," the older boy said. "Do you think I ought to kiss her now?" After thinking a while, the younger boy replied, "No, I don't think you have to kiss her. I think you've done enough already!"<sup>3</sup>

Parents can be like that. They bring the hamburger home and cook it, but it's against their natures to be affectionate and complimentary. They feel awkward about showing love and insincere when giving praise. Why? It comes from their own home backgrounds. Perhaps their parents were cold and unaffectionate; and because children are products of their home environment, these traits are passed on to another generation.

In his book, *Help! I'm a Parent!* Bruce Narramore says, "This cycle doesn't need to carry on! We can stop it now! We can become positive even though it runs against our grain."<sup>3</sup>

A few years ago, I accompanied my husband to a large city on one of his speaking engagements. While we were there, I was invited to speak at a ladies' gathering. After I had encouraged the women to communicate their love to their children, a very pretty young mother came up to talk with me. She expressed her feeling that it would be next to impossible for her ever to take her five-year-old twins into her arms and caress and kiss them. Her reason was that she had never been treated that way herself when she was a child. Needless to say, I did all I could to encourage her to break that family tradition of coldness.



### Showing Affection is Biblical

The idea of being affectionate is Biblical. Remember the story of Jacob and Esau? They were twin brothers and were apart for many years. When they were reunited, the Bible says, "*And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him; and they wept.*" Genesis 33:4.

Jacob and Joseph were father and son and had also been separated for years. When they came together, the Bible says, "*And Joseph made ready his chariot, and went up to meet Israel his father, to Goshen, and presented himself unto him; and he fell on his neck, and wept on his neck a good while.*" Genesis 46:29.

Again, the Bible tells of Paul's last time to be with the Ephesian elders at Miletus, and they were telling him good-bye. They knew they would never see his face again. Did they shake his hand and say, "Paul, it has really been nice to know you"? Of course they didn't! The Bible says, "*And they all wept sore, and fell on Paul's neck, and kissed him.*" Acts 20:37.

On one occasion Jesus was eating meat in the house of a Pharisee. A sinful woman came in and wept, washed Jesus' feet with her tears, kissed them, and anointed them with ointment. The Pharisee was standing off condemning all this in his mind. He reasoned, "*This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.*" Luke 7:39. Jesus, knowing the thoughts of the Pharisee's heart, rebuked him. He the same as said, "Here I came into your house, and you didn't even give me water to wash my feet; furthermore, you didn't kiss me." Jesus indicated to him that, by failing to show him these outward affections, he had sadly neglected being a good host.

### Carpe Diem

In closing, I ask you, "Is your home one that portrays a sacrificial love?" "Do you have an acceptance of yourself so that you are capable of loving someone else?" "I would be quite sure you are providing the necessities of food, clothing, and shelter for your family, but are

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you giving of yourself and your time?" "And last of all, are you a love-communicating family?"

If you have never been affectionate, I say to you, "Carpe diem." That is an old Roman quotation which means, "Seize the day." Seize this day and start loving and communicating your love at the sacrificial, agape, level. And remember that the remaining TUAC principles will not work until you have accomplished the level of love that *seeks the ultimate good of the loved one*, and give of it *Con sist' ent ly*.

#### ASSIGNMENT

1. Take an empty medicine bottle, make a written copy of the following prescription and paste it on the bottle. Put it in the refrigerator and apply three times a day.

#### AFFECTIONATE PHARMACY

No. 322912                      Dr. Dew Alittle Lovin  
For: Daddy Bee & Mother Bee

Three times a day, apply an affectionate kiss, hug, and squeeze to each child in the family. Accompany it with an "I Love You."

2. Write yourself this reminder on a piece of tape and wrap it around your lipstick tube: *Did I kiss them and say, "I love you," today?*
3. Write this note on your tube of toothpaste: *Have I squeezed them today?*
4. On Tuesday, have homemade cookies and a glass of milk waiting when your children come in from school. (Be sure the good aroma is still lingering in the air.)
5. Give a word of praise to each child *EVERY DAY*.