

LOVE — one of life's greatest blessings



**From
the
Director**

by Ann Dugger

In February, when we celebrate Valentine's Day, our thoughts usually turn to LOVE. Love is a wonderful thing – makes the world go 'round, according to a popular saying. We usually think of young people, starry-eyed and glowing with happiness, when we talk about "falling in love," but love transcends age and reason and logic.

I don't know of anything more beautiful than to see an elderly couple, who have spent their lives together, exuding serene happiness as they live out their final years. Or a middle-aged pair, secure in their relationship with each other, raising their kids to be productive members of society.

But love encompasses a lot more categories than these. There's love we feel for our children. Is there any emotion more powerful than when we hold a newborn child in our arms and rejoice in the miracle of birth?

As we mature, the love we feel for our parents magnifies when we more fully understand the hard work and sacrifices they made to nurture us and provide the necessities of life.

Love is wonderful and adds a magnificent dimension to our daily existence.

We love our friends – truly one of life's greatest blessings. What would we do without close friends to share our problems and joys, to go shopping with (or hunting and fishing), just to know they're there when we need them, or to be there for them?

And many of us cherish God's love – His unconditional love that sent His Son to die in our place so that we might have eternal life with Him after this life is over. We don't deserve this great love, His grace, God's unmerited favor toward man.

Love is wonderful and adds a magnificent dimension to our daily existence. Then why is there so much pain and sadness, so much cruelty and misery? Why do men terrorize their wives and children with verbal and physical abuse – or even kill them? Why do wives do the same, or leave their little children to fend for themselves while they seek a few moments

of pleasure?

Why do perverted men prey on little boys or molest little girls – making their lives worse than miserable? Why do women, in the guise of love, live with boyfriends who end up bashing their infants' heads against the wall because the babies won't stop crying?

Why do people think filling their systems and numbing their brains with alcohol and drugs are the answers they are looking for?

Why? Because there is a great void in their hearts. True love does not exist in this type of behavior. Only true love can fill the void – God's love.

This Valentine's Day be especially grateful for the loved ones in your life. Don't take them for granted; let them know you care.

No one falls in love by choice;
it is by **CHANCE.**

No one stays in love by chance;
it is by **WORK.**

And no one falls out of love by chance;
it is by **CHOICE.**

Inspirational Thought

Charity (love) suffers long and is kind; charity envies not, vaunts (boasts) not itself, is not puffed up, does not behave itself unseemly, seeks not her own, is not easily provoked, thinks no evil; rejoices not in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things....and now abides faith, hope and charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity. — I Corinthians 13:4-7, 13

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