

# LOVE: WHAT'S THE POINT?

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- Pope Francis*

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God created each person and he loves us. That means you. God loves YOU. But what is the point of love? In the media today, we hear and see many mixed messages about love. Many people confuse love with physical attraction or other self-centered desires. But Jesus teaches us that love is about selfless giving and unity with our creator. Real love desires the greatest good for the beloved and the greatest good is always in relationship with Jesus Christ.

Connecting with God to find love is each person's greatest desire. This yearning is written on each human *heart*. St. Augustine said it this way: our hearts are restless until they rest in God.

When we connect with God through the Sacraments and prayer and we center our lives on God, amazing things happen. We are able to love others the same way God loves us – unconditionally. The words of Sacred Scripture reveal the truth about love, and the eternal love God intends for each of us.

*“Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, Love never fails.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-8*

Genuine love involves caring about another person as much as you care for yourself. We are called to recognize the dignity in ourselves and allow God's love to fill our lives. When we are filled with God's love, we extend that love to others. We are able to love all of God's children, regardless of who they are: young, old, white, black, tall, short, disabled, still developing in a mother's womb, imprisoned, unpopular, neglected. God's love encompasses them all and God made our hearts to love with the same openness and compassion.

When we love and trust God and follow his will, our love naturally extends beyond our home, to share love and compassion with people in need whether across town or across the globe.

God's love for each person and for all humanity is revealed in the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who made the ultimate sacrifice when he freely died on the cross for our sins.

*“And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20*

The way of love is open to everyone and is a special invitation from God to all humanity to build relationships of peace and justice based on love for God and one another. This is what the Kingdom of God looks like, love.

*“The more a person loves, the more he resembles God. Love should influence the whole life of a person.” (Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church, no.402.)*