

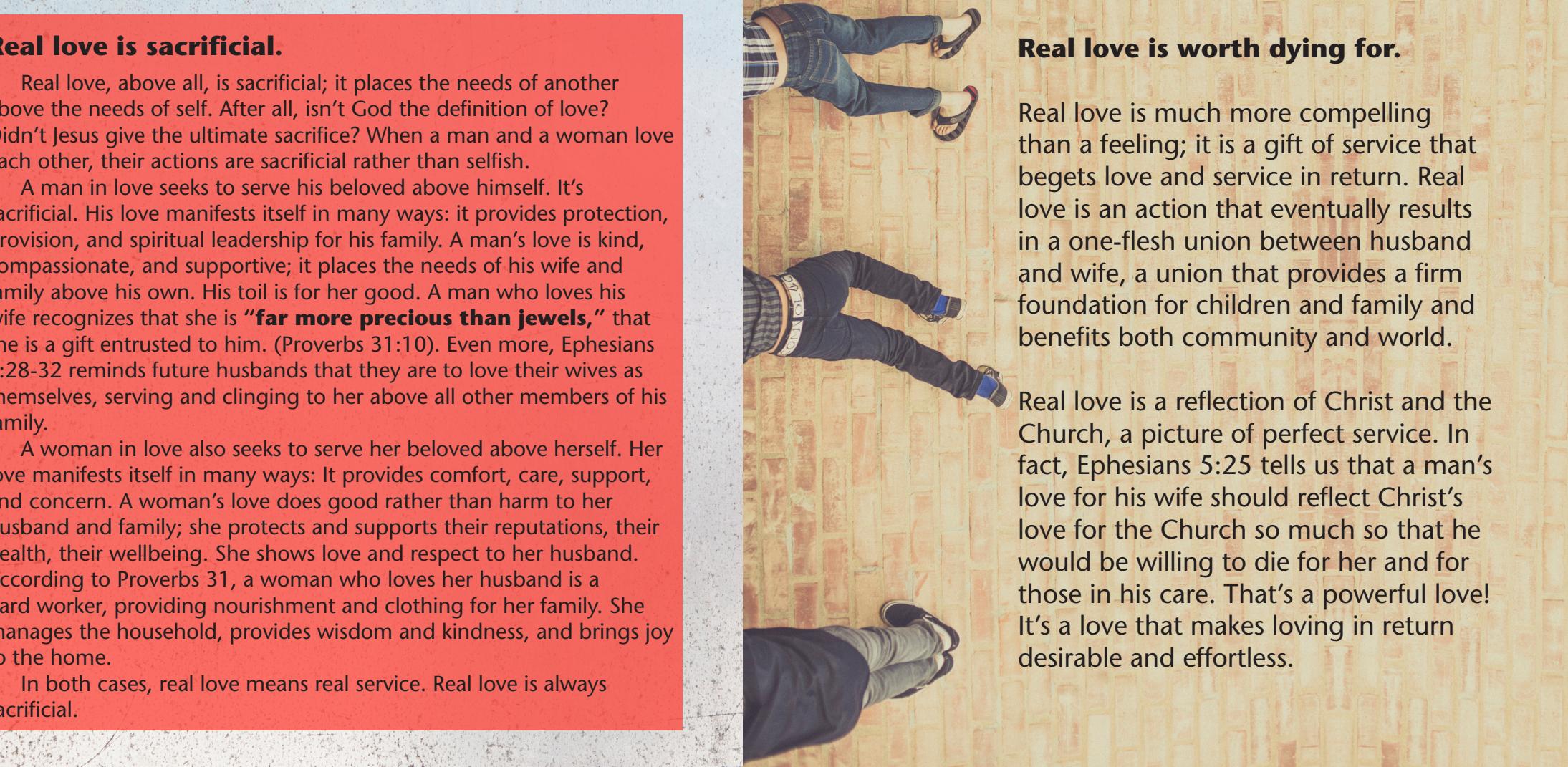
Real love is sacrificial.

Real love, above all, is sacrificial; it places the needs of another above the needs of self. After all, isn't God the definition of love? Didn't Jesus give the ultimate sacrifice? When a man and a woman love each other, their actions are sacrificial rather than selfish.

A man in love seeks to serve his beloved above himself. It's sacrificial. His love manifests itself in many ways: it provides protection, provision, and spiritual leadership for his family. A man's love is kind, compassionate, and supportive; it places the needs of his wife and family above his own. His toil is for her good. A man who loves his wife recognizes that she is "**far more precious than jewels**," that she is a gift entrusted to him. (Proverbs 31:10). Even more, Ephesians 5:28-32 reminds future husbands that they are to love their wives as themselves, serving and clinging to her above all other members of his family.

A woman in love also seeks to serve her beloved above herself. Her love manifests itself in many ways: It provides comfort, care, support, and concern. A woman's love does good rather than harm to her husband and family; she protects and supports their reputations, their health, their wellbeing. She shows love and respect to her husband. According to Proverbs 31, a woman who loves her husband is a hard worker, providing nourishment and clothing for her family. She manages the household, provides wisdom and kindness, and brings joy to the home.

In both cases, real love means real service. Real love is always sacrificial.



Real love is worth dying for.

Real love is much more compelling than a feeling; it is a gift of service that begets love and service in return. Real love is an action that eventually results in a one-flesh union between husband and wife, a union that provides a firm foundation for children and family and benefits both community and world.

Real love is a reflection of Christ and the Church, a picture of perfect service. In fact, Ephesians 5:25 tells us that a man's love for his wife should reflect Christ's love for the Church so much so that he would be willing to die for her and for those in his care. That's a powerful love! It's a love that makes loving in return desirable and effortless.

Is real love really possible?

The answer, quite simply, is YES!

You've already witnessed this

love in the actions of Christ. This real love was showered on you

in your Baptism, and it surrounds you each day of your life. God's

agape love is sacrificial and active. His actions prove His great and

eternal love for you.

How can we love like God commands?

How can we love our

spouse perfectly?

As imperfect beings, we won't ever be able to love others perfectly this side of heaven. But by God's grace, we are able to reflect His love to others; we are able to show care, concern, and compassion. Through the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we are able to place the needs of others above our own, to bear burdens and rejoice in what is good. Because God loved us first, we can choose to love others.

And when we don't love as we should? Then we head boldly

toward the means of grace and forgiveness. We cling to the ark of

Christ in our baptismal waters, rejoicing that God has drowned the

old Adam in us again and again, and celebrating the new life we've

been given each and every morning.

And we begin again,

in real love and service to others.

"Therefore be imitators of God,

as beloved children.

And walk in love,

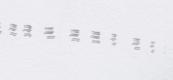
as Christ loved us and gave himself up

for us,

a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God"

(Ephesians 5:1-2).

Real Love



Real Life



Y4Life

Our God is the God of Life. In His Word, we learn that God loves all humans; in fact, He loved humankind so much that He sent His Son to die for all human life. This makes all human life important, valuable, and meaningful. **Y4Life** seeks to equip high-school and college-aged youth to be Gospel-motivated voices 4Life. Through service, celebration, worship, and education, youth are encouraged to engage in life-affirming activities and become Leaders 4Life in their schools, communities, nation, and world!



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**We wonder when we'll find it.
We wonder IF we'll find it.**

Sometimes we see it work wonderfully ... and sometimes we see it fall apart. And when it does fall apart, it hurts. Relationships break; hearts break; people break. Is love really all it's cracked up to be? Hallmark movie. It's NOT p intense, selfish, and tempo NOT an "until someone el me happier" type of love.

The simple answer is, **YES!** God desires to give His people love, and one of the ways He provides the blessing of love is through marriage. But how do we know when we've found real love? How do we show real love to our spouse? How do we love as God intended?

Real love is a forever love, a love that remains even when life is difficult. Real love is a union that lasts until death which causes lovers in real love

irst, we need to know what real love looks like, what it is and what it isn't. We need to know how to spot it, how to grow it, and how to give it. Interested in learning more about **REAL LOVE?**

ead on, young lover!

**According to 1 Corinthians 13,
real love has a distinct look.**

A close-up photograph of an open book showing two blank, cream-colored pages. The book is bound in dark brown leather covers visible along the edges.

A close-up photograph of a person's hands and lap. The person is wearing blue jeans and a dark t-shirt. They are sitting on a light-colored couch, holding a black smartphone in their hands, looking down at the screen. The background is slightly blurred.

... is founded on hope
... seeks the truth and is always loyal

The Bible is extremely clear about what looks like. It even tells us what it's NOT there is no confusion. Real love ...

... is not envious or boastful
... is not rude or selfish
... does not easily become angry or insist on
... does not hold a grudge

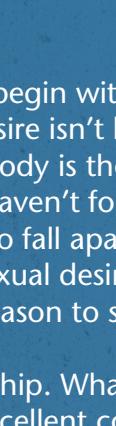
Real love starts with fri

that defines what you're calling love, then Marriages based solely on desire are between man and woman have nothing in common except be left when sex is no longer a strong enough factor. Nothing.

A relationship that lasts is founded on more than just physical attraction. What qualities make for a good friend? Which qualities make for a spouse? If you make a list of these attributes, you'll find that they overlap significantly.

thumb for finding a good spouse. For she will be a good wife.

ter sense of who you are in your life. No one can decide whether or not you are your spouse destined to be. God has handed you her own. Remember.



Real love is an action rat
It's exciting to feel the first bloo

It's exciting to feel the first bloom in the stomach, the rush when your heart starts racing, your eyes meet ... it's exhilarating! And it's not just for the first time. Last. No one lives life on cloud nine forever.

Eventually the drudgery hits. He hurts her feelings when he doesn't meet expectations. Humans sin, and when

Despite sin, real love doesn't change. That means that even when the commitment of real love carries through, it results in permanent action; it's not waning devotion.

Real love seeks to meet the need
action, real love can be seen. It looks

after working all day, a mom cooking well, a friend attending your basketball game, a person who is really into basketball, a boyfriend who loves basketball. Real love means setting aside one's own interests instead.

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Check it out: Y4Life.org