



## Love: Something Better

*By David Qualls*

As a Christian, should my view of love be different from the world's perspective? Or is love just love and that's it?

Not surprisingly, as in most other areas of life, the meaning of love for a Christian stands in stark contrast to the world's viewpoint. Test yourself with these comparisons and see which view you tend toward (choose the best answer in each couplet):

- a. You fall in love with someone or something
- b. Love is a choice
  
- a. When you are in love, just follow your heart
- b. Love is under the control of reason and intellect
  
- a. Love just happens; Cupid takes his aim
- b. Love is a God-given gift that I accept on God's terms
  
- a. True love must start with a feeling
- b. True love is an attitude I choose to foster
  
- a. Love awakens by an irresistible attraction to someone
- b. Love reaches out to make someone better and happier
  
- a. Love is primarily an emotion, a feeling
- b. Love is primarily a principle

The world's view of love is that it is something that happens to you; you fall into it; you are smitten; you are held captive and are swept off your feet. You are told to follow your heart. If it feels good, do it. Love, to the world, is a feeling, an emotion, a

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## True Love

*From Testimonies Vol. 2, p. 133-136*

True love is not a strong, fiery, impetuous passion. On the contrary, it is calm and deep in its nature. It looks beyond mere externals and is attracted by qualities alone. It is wise and discriminating, and its devotion is real and abiding. God tests and proves us by the common occurrences of life. It is the little things which reveal the chapters of the heart. It is the little attentions, the numerous small incidents and simple courtesies of life, that make up the sum of life's happiness; and it is the neglect of kindly, encouraging, affectionate words, and the little courtesies of life, which helps compose the sum of life's wretchedness. It will be found at last that the denial of self for the good and happiness of those around us constitutes a large share of the life record in heaven. And the fact will also be revealed that the care of self, irrespective of the good and happiness of others, is not beneath the notice of our heavenly Father.

...the Lord is working for you, and will bless and strengthen you in the course of right. You understand the theory of truth, and should be obtaining all the knowledge you can of God's will and work, that you may be prepared to fill a more responsible position if He, seeing you can glorify His name best in so doing, should require it of you.

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*Love is power. Intellectual and moral strength are involved in this principle*

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But you have yet an experience to gain. You are too impulsive, too easily affected by circumstances. God is willing to strengthen, stablish, settle you, if you will earnestly and humbly seek wisdom of Him who is unerring, and who has promised that you shall not seek in vain...

Love is power. Intellectual and moral strength are involved in this principle, and cannot be separated from it. The power of wealth has a tendency to corrupt and destroy; the power of force is strong to do hurt; but the excellence and value of pure love consist in its efficiency to do good, and to do nothing else than good. Whatsoever is done out of pure love, be it ever so little or contemptible in the sight of men, is wholly fruitful; for God regards more with how much love one worketh than the amount he doeth. Love is

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sentiment, something sensual (sensory-focused), self-serving, me-centered.

In fact, if we think about it, this is the way of the world in almost all areas. Follow your senses. Let your heart (emotions, feelings) be your guide. Choices about diet, fashions, social life, recreation, entertainment, music, and yes, what church to attend, and even religious beliefs, are driven by these same ideas. If it feels good, it must be the right course for me.

As in other areas of life, the worldly viewpoint is to allow feelings, desires, and emotions to rule, with reason and intellect being subordinate.

But God's word calls us to something better; to higher ground. True love comes from God and is more a principle—a chosen attitude (backed up by action), than it is a feeling or emotion. Yes, the feelings will likely follow, but they are always subservient to, and under the control of, God-given reason and intellect.

First Corinthians 13 best defines love from the perspective of a Christian. True love endures all things, is longsuffering, patient, kind, forgiving, and seeks not her own. It rejoices in the truth.

A Christian seeking to please God approaches romance, courtship, and marriage in an entirely different manner than the world. God, not Cupid, St. Valentine, or our own feelings, plays the leading role in the decisions and choices of those who faithfully desire to please Him.

A Christian church member, seeing a fellow member going astray and in need of spiritual guidance and exhortation, will not be swayed by the suggestion that “we should just love them,” if that suggestion is a misguided excuse for neglecting our duty to hold our fellow member accountable. True love will call sin by its right name and will not fail in declaring *all* the counsel of God (Acts 20:27).

True love will compel us to seek the lost, no matter who they are, pointing them to Jesus and His truth.

“Jesus says, ‘Love one another as I have loved you’ [John 13:34]. Love is not simply an impulse, a transitory emotion, dependent upon circumstances; it is a living principle, a permanent power. The soul is fed by the streams of pure love that flow from the heart of Christ, as a well-spring that never fails” (Ellen G. White, *Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 101).

“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” [John 13:35].... These were their credentials that Christ was formed within, the hope of glory [Col. 1:27]” (Ellen G. White, *Sermons and Talks*, vol. 2, p. 119).

May we have the divine credentials—true love for God and for one another. Not love as the worlds sees it, but something better, far better. ❖

*Answers to quiz: b on each couplet.*

## Music Guidelines for the Christian

Former pop singer and rock musician Brian Neumann will be coming to Owasso in February to conduct a series on music, its history, impact on Christians today, how to know what is appropriate for the Christian, and other exciting topics. You won't want to miss this stirring and thought-provoking program (see **Announcements** section on page 4). In keeping with this theme, we offer an excerpt from “**Guidelines Toward An SDA Philosophy of Music**” as voted by the General Conference Committee during the autumn council, October 14-29, 1972:

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has come into existence in fulfillment of prophecy to be God's instrument in a worldwide proclamation of the Good News of salvation through faith in the atoning sacrifice of God's Son and of obedience to His commands in preparation for our Lord's return. The lives of those who accept this responsibility must be as distinctive as their message. This calls for total commitment by each church member to the ideals and objectives of the Church. Such commitment will affect every department of church life and will certainly influence the music used by the Church in fulfillment of its God-given commission.

Music is one of God's great gifts to man and is one of the most important elements in a spiritual program. It is an avenue of communication with God, and “is one of the most effective means of impressing the heart with spiritual truth” (*Education*, p. 168). Dealing as it does with matters of eternal consequence, it is essential that music's tremendous power be kept clearly in mind. It has the power to uplift or degrade; it can be used in the service of good or evil. “It has power to subdue rude and uncultivated natures; power to quicken thought and to awaken sympathy, to promote harmony of action, and to banish the gloom and foreboding that destroy courage and weaken effort” (*ibid.*, pp. 167-168).

Those, therefore, who select music for the distinctive purposes of this Church must exercise a high degree of discrimination in its choice and in its use. In their endeavors to meet these ideals, more than human wisdom is needed. Turning then to revelation for guidance, the following general principles are revealed:

The music should

1. Bring glory to God and assist us in acceptably worshiping Him (1 Cor 10:31).
2. Ennoble, uplift, and purify the Christian's thoughts (Phil 4:8; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 594).
3. Effectively influence the Christian in the development of Christ's character in his life and in that of others (*MS 57*, 1906).

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## THREE ANGELS KITCHEN

### Banana Bread

Modified from the original recipe found at [www.vegweb.com](http://www.vegweb.com)

#### Ingredients:

- 1 3/4 cups flour
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup mashed bananas (Takes 2-3 Bananas)
- 1/2 cup vegetable Oil
- 1/3 cup soy-buttermilk\*

#### Directions:

Preheat oven to 325 degrees F.

Mix flour, brown sugar, baking soda and salt in a large mixing bowl.

Blend bananas, oil, and buttermilk\*.

Combine the banana mixture with the large bowl containing dry ingredients, and stir well. (Optional: add 1/2 cup pecans or walnuts).

Pour into a greased 9x5 inch bread pan. Bake in 325 degree oven for 1 hour and 15 minutes, or until a toothpick in the middle comes out clean.

\*To make buttermilk, combine 1 cup soymilk with 1 tablespoon of lemon juice. This can be used on a 1:1 ratio with buttermilk, so 1/3 cup of this = 1/3 cup buttermilk.

Serves: 10 ❖



4. Have a text [words, lyric, message] which is in harmony with the scriptural teachings of the Church (*Review and Herald*, June 6, 1912).
5. Reveal a compatibility between the message conveyed by the words and the music, avoiding a mixture of the sacred and the profane.
6. Shun theatricality and prideful display (*Evangelism*, p. 137; *Review and Herald*, November 30, 1900).
7. Give precedence to the message of the text, which should not be overpowered by accompanying musical elements (*Gospel Workers*, pp. 357-358).
8. Maintain a judicious balance of the emotional, intellectual, and spiritual elements (*Review and Herald*, November 14, 1899).
9. Never compromise high principles of dignity and excellence in efforts to reach people just where they are (*Testimonies for the Church*, 9:143; *Evangelism*, p. 137).
10. Be appropriate for the occasion, the setting, and the audience for which it is intended (*Evangelism*, pp. 507-508).

There is much that is spiritually uplifting and religiously valid in the music of the various cultural and ethnic groups; however, the musical tastes and practices of all should conform to the universal value of Christ-like character, and all should strive for oneness in the spirit and purpose of the gospel, which calls for unity rather than uniformity. Care must be exercised that worldly values in music which fail to express the high ideals of the Christian faith be avoided.

The above principles will serve as effective guidelines in the choice and use of music for the varied needs of the Church. Certain musical forms, such as jazz, rock, and their related hybrid forms, are considered by the Church as incompatible with these principles. Responsible persons involved in the Church's broad-ranging music activities, either as leaders or performers, will find little trouble in applying these principles in some areas. Certain other areas are much more complex, and a more detailed discussion of the factors involved follows. ❖

*The complete text of the GC's 1972 music guidelines, "Guidelines Toward An SDA Philosophy of Music" (including extensive practical guidance), as well as our local church's music guidelines can be found on our website at [www.13asda.org/articles/articles.htm](http://www.13asda.org/articles/articles.htm)*

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

February

- 11 – Lesley Orellana
- 12 – Lillian Boyington
- 16 – Chris Turnham
- 16 – Mary Mahoney

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*Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God...*

*(1 John 3:1)*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Healthy Choices Cooking Classes

Place: Three Angels SDA Church - Owasso  
Time: Sunday, February 11 (2-4 PM); ongoing monthly.

Come enjoy health videos by renowned doctors and health professionals as well as food samples, gift drawings, and more!

### In the Footsteps of Paul

Place: Three Angels SDA Church - Owasso  
Time: Each Wednesday at 7:00 PM

In this fascinating series, In the Footsteps of Paul, Tony Moore will take you back in time to understand the world of the Apostle Paul. This spectacular twenty-episode series was filmed entirely on location in Turkey, Israel, Syria, Greece, and Italy, and brings fresh meaning to Paul's teachings by applying them to our life in the 21st century. Just think... for over 13,000 miles Paul followed Jesus!

### The Language of Music with Brian Neumann

Place: Three Angels SDA Church - Owasso  
Time: February 14 – 20 at 7:00 PM. There will be a series of presentations on Sabbath February 17 starting at 11 AM.

Brian S. Neumann spent more than 16 years in the Rock-Pop industry as a professional musician. He worked as a vocalist, guitarist, composer, performer and session musician in Europe as well as in Africa. Since his return to Jesus, Brian has done extensive research into the language of music, its effects on the human psyche and the spiritual, mental, and physical implications attached to choosing the right or wrong kind of music.

### Issues of Present Truth with Carl Martin

Place: Three Angels SDA Church – Owasso  
Time: Friday, March 30 at 7:00 PM. Sabbath, March 31 starting at 11 AM (four meetings)

Topics include: Our side of the Covenant, The Mind of Christ in the Remnant, Satan in the Courtroom, His Life and Ours, Believe His Prophets.

of God. The unconverted heart cannot originate nor produce this plant of heavenly growth, which lives and flourishes only where Christ reigns.

Love cannot live without action, and every act increases, strengthens, and extends it. Love will gain the victory when argument and authority are powerless. Love works not for profit nor reward; yet God has ordained that great gain shall be the certain result of every labor of love. It is diffusive in its nature and quiet in its operation, yet strong and mighty in its purpose to overcome great evils. It is melting and transforming in its influence, and will take hold of the lives of the sinful and affect their hearts when every other means has proved unsuccessful. Wherever the power of intellect, of authority, or of force is employed, and love is not manifestly present, the affections and will of those whom we seek to reach assume a defensive, repelling position, and their strength of resistance is increased. Jesus was the Prince of Peace. He came into the world to bring resistance and authority into subjection to Himself. Wisdom and strength He could command, but the means He employed with which to overcome evil were the wisdom and strength of love. Suffer nothing to divide your interest from your present work until God shall see fit to give you another piece of work in the same field. Seek not for happiness, for it is never to be found by seeking for it. Go about your duty. Let faithfulness mark all your doings, and be clothed with humility. ❖

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#### Worship Schedule

#### Saturday (Sabbath)

Sabbath School.....9:30am  
Main Worship Service.....10:45am

#### Wednesday

Prayer Meeting.....7:00pm

Send comments/suggestions about this newsletter to  
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