

Hongkong study English."

"No, I mean she doesn't read or write at all, Chinese or English!"

"Really? I thought she looked like she belonged to the middle class. Are you sure that she is illiterate?" I confessed my doubts.

"She grew up in a very poor family and had to work in a factory in order to support her younger brothers and sisters. Her husband has a rather successful business. That's why she really wants her children to have a good education." My wife explained.

"So, what are you going to do? If she doesn't read, you can't just send her a card back."

"Well, I suppose Mr. Chan can read the mail to her." My wife replied. "But what should we write to her?"

"How about telling her that because we all are illiterate of God's language of love, He had to send His own Son to us instead of just giving us a card." I suggested.

In a way, Jesus was the first real Christmas card sent in person by God Himself across the miles.

Real Love

Nicok Mar

Real love is not something which you can buy but are something spiritual and are able to endure all obstacles unconditionally. "Genuine love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never haughty, selfish, or rude and does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do wrong. It is never glad about injustice but rejoices whenever truth wins out. If you love someone you will be loyal to him, always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground in defending him." (The Living Bible I Corinthians 13:4-7) Some

people may see love as a purely physical and sexual act, some may see it as financial security, some may see it as a long lasting unconditional act, but to test the true strength of love you must begin with a firm foundation on which to build upon it and let the storms determine where it stand.

Love can come in many shapes and sizes; it changes people's attitudes and makes the world go round. Love is a teacher; it is a learning experience of joy and pain to express feelings and desires. And, to add interest, love is also like a math problem. Love can add to your joy, subtract from your sorrow,

multiply richness, and be divided among the people you care about. The amount of love you can give is also infinite in any square root or tangent you may try to solve.

Love can make you deaf and blind. You can have one hundred percent hearing and twenty-twenty vision but once you find it, it can handicap you and take you down various roads you would never expect to follow. For example, love can blind you from the ugliness of evil corruption and leave you to see only the beauty of it. Love can deafen you to shut yourself out from wrong and leave you to hear only the sweet music. Love is a disease that will spread like cancer but yet it can be so powerful that it has a miracle of healing and restoration. If you come to find love, it will teach you many things and change your views of life. Love can open your eyes and ears.

Love is also something spiritual and its purest form comes from God. In the world where we live in, it confuses love with lust. Unlike lust, God's love is the kind that is directed toward others not inward toward ourselves. It is utterly unselfish and unconditional. When we experience the love God gives each and every one of us, we are able to love others through time. Therefore the closer we come to know God, the more love we have to give to others. When you are blinded by it, you do not judge others by their outer ap-

pearance or even by their distortions. You only see the wonderful creation of God. You love others because each individual is a masterpiece from God. There are many definitions and explanations for what love is and its meaning varies from person to person, but I believe that the main source is from God because God is love.

The following lyrics of a song by an unknown author that describes God's unconditional love for each one of us. If you are still searching for genuine love, search no more:

"I looked for love in the red rose so small. I looked for love in the green tree so tall. But the red rose had its thorns, and the green tree was a cross. And my searching for love was a total loss.

I looked for love in a friendly face so true. I looked for love in a creed I once knew. Well, my friend just called me friend, and he said "I'm searching, too." And the creed only told me what I couldn't do.

Then one day I heard the story of love as if I'd never known. How God gave His Son to save me and wanted me for His own. His own. His very own.

And now, I know what it means to belong. not lost in a crowd swept along by the throng. But, to Him who gave His life every longing to fulfill—and I know that He loves me and He always will."