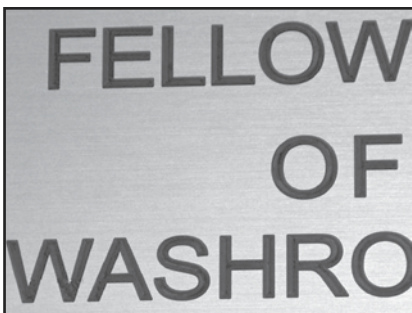
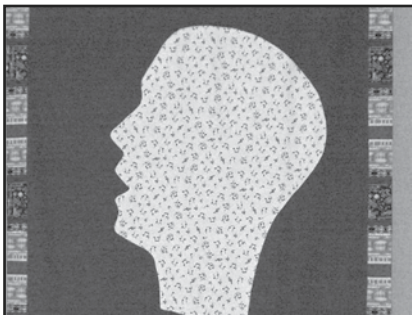


WHO AM I



&

WHERE IS THIS



answer on page 14

What is Love?

Love is a melody floating in the air!

Twenty-three definitions of love can be found in Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, but '*the object of affection, tenderness, attachment and devotion*' appears to be minimized in today's modern thinking! Our world appears now to have only three types of love: 'sexual'; 'romantic' and then - '*love that is long lasting and perpetual!*'

Words change over the years - 'gay' once meant being 'keenly alive and exuberant' - the modern connotation is a 'same sex liaison'. A 'screen' was something to put on a window, not a part of a television or computer. Has the word 'love' also lost some of its true meaning? 'Making love' is used by younger people to indicate a sexual experience. Statistics say that many teens have 'sexual love' before they reach the age of fifteen, this in itself lessens the true meaning of the emotion.

'Romantic love' on the other hand - something spontaneous, like the spring growth of a beautiful garden or forest - everything is bright, fresh, exciting and a feeling that it will never end. By late summer it is fully grown, some weeds have developed, deterioration sets in and it gradually dies, the advent of fall begins. Standing in the woods, quietly on a calm fall day, you can watch the leaves fall and hear their lament as they land softly, like the tears of summer. The leftovers can be raked into a pile and consumed by fire! Romantic love, which started so enthusiastically, might also die and be decimated by a traumatic divorce - all the love is gone!

Then there is 'enduring love' - love with no explanation - something that might have started as 'romantic love', but is now always there - no end - like the love for a spouse, a child, a sibling or a parent. When parents are long gone, their love and influence can still be felt. When does enduring love start? There's no answer - only the knowledge that the love is reliable, always there regardless of occasional difficulties. The commitment of: 'I love you' can seemingly exist from ages past. Life partners have that enduring love - like the love of God.

written and submitted by Chuck Holman