

the cupid deception

ross van niekerk











romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the **renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.



defining love

how the world has defined it

- a deep, tender, ineffable feeling of affection;
- a feeling of intense desire and attraction;
- the [passion] of sex and romance.
- an intense emotional attachment.

- *answers.com*

john 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you **love** one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

ephesians 5:25-28

Husbands, **love** your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

(re)defining love

biblical love

a decision to do good.

- dallas willard

discipleship for the sake of the kingdom

(re)defining love

biblical love

*an act of the will, accompanied by emotions,
that leads to acts of kindness to benefit the
object of love.*

*- voddie baucham
marriage by design*

(re)defining love

biblical love

To last for the long haul and through the stresses and complexities of life, love has to be more than something we feel. It has to be something we do.

*- gary chapman
from *love is a verb**

(re)defining love

characteristics of biblical love

- everlasting (Jer 31:3)
- unconditional (Rom 5:7-8)
- visible (1John 3:18)
- generous (Rom 8:32)
- sacrificial (John 15:13)
- giving (John 3:16)
- forgiving (Psa 86:5)
- imparted (Rom 5:5)

looking for a spouse or re-defining your expectations

1. renew your mind.
2. control your emotions.
3. become someone mariable.
4. start looking.

looking for a spouse

1: renew your mind – what is important?

proverbs 31:10, 25, 30

¹⁰ A virtuous wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels.

²⁵ Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.

³⁰ Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

looking for a spouse

1: renew your mind – what is important?

loyal – faithful – truthful

humble – serving – selfless

passionate – committed – affectionate

courageous – enduring – charismatic

optimistic – disciplined – confident

grateful – generous – determined

friendly – hospitable – merciful

looking for a spouse

1: renew your mind – love is not enough

1 corinthians 13:7

...[love] bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.

bears + endures = **sacrificial love**

believes = **faith**

hopes = **hope**

from Fred May: Love is Not Enough, 2002

looking for a spouse

1: renew your mind – love is not enough

- Faith = character, underlying core values.
- Hope = common vision or direction.
- Love = bond of perfection.

looking for a spouse

2: control your emotions

psalm 131:2

Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul, as one weaned by its mother; my soul on me is like one weaned.

looking for a spouse

3: become someone mariable

2 peter 1:3-7

...make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

refer: romans 8:29

looking for a spouse
start looking – can I choose?

proverbs 18:22

He who **finds** a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD.

proverbs 31:10

A virtuous wife who can **find**? She is far more precious than jewels.

(re)defining love

biblical love

Love isn't wrapped up in a pronoun – in “he”, “she”, or “them”. It's not about who other people are or how they treat us or what they do to make us value them. It begins with you, and it's not primarily about what you say or feel. Instead, love is an action word; it's a choice you have to make. Love is a verb!

*- gary chapman
from love is a verb*

looking for a spouse

how you marry

is more important than

who you marry.