

English 1A

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Love is unselfish

What do you think when you hear the word “Love”? Most people use it to express something they really like. For example, I love my dog. However, love truly has deeper meaning than just liking things. Love is a feeling or emotion that exists when two people are interested to each other, share the same feeling towards each other, give and receive about the same amount of everything, and willing to do almost anything for the loved one. Through my experience, I have found out that love is not something that you can force also; it is not always reciprocal and it is not necessarily consists of two human beings that love each other, share the same feeling, and giving their best to each other. At the present, I have realized that love is unselfish where loving unconditionally, giving, and forgiving are parts of it.

First, love is unconditional. It means that when you love someone, you do not have a certain criteria to love the person. In other words, your love for the person is regardless of the person’s quality and action. It is one of the ways of loving someone which people often found in movie, novel, and stories. For example, a mother will always love her child even if the child grows up to become a bad guy, criminal, or drug dealer. Yet, the mother might feel disappointed with the child’s current situation because every mother would expect her child to be the best. Eventually, all mothers would still love their children no matter what they have become. The love of a mother to the child is unconditional; loving someone that never depends on certain

situation or condition. Another example, there were a young man and a young girl who were deeply in love and about to get married in a month. One day, they went out together riding on a motorcycle. Unfortunately, a sloppy van driver hit them on the side and the girl badly injured her right leg and must be amputated. Knowing that the girl's leg was amputated, the guy felt very sorry. He stayed with her in the hospital the whole night. The next day, his parents come over to visit the young woman. After that, they told their son to cancel the marriage because of her condition. The parent mentioned that it would be difficult and sad for him to marry someone handicapped. The parents forced him to cancel the marriage and look for another woman. On the other hand, he felt his parent only see with their eyes; he believes that there are things that need to be felt not only seen. He explains that he cannot simply leave her after what they had gone through together; they stayed together through joyful moments and he insisted that he will also be by her side. Finally, he decides to keep marrying her regardless of her condition. The young man's love is unconditional because he loves who she is; he loves her beyond anything, looks and condition. Therefore, love is unconditional in a sense that no matter what happen to the person you love, and what that person does, the love will not disappear.

The second point that I want to explain is that love is about giving. Robert Louis Balfour Stevenson once said "You can give without loving, but you can never love without giving". When I love someone, I want to be with her and I want to give everything that she likes or wants. Even though she does not expect or ask for anything, I feel like I want to give everything that I can possibly give. Once I give her stuff that makes her happy, it also makes me happy. Even if she never gives me anything, it does not upset me or disappoint me in any way because I do not ask or expect anything. On the other hand, if you expect her to give something back, you should ask yourself once again whether you really love her or not. Because love never expects

something in return, it is sincere. Another example is the love of brothers; I have two older brothers, when I was a kid, my mother used to buy us something that all three of us could share. But, sometimes we could not always share the stuffs for the same amount. So as the youngest, I used to ask for more and we used to have quick fight where it often ended with me having the stuff that I want. As we grew up together, they have been taking care of me all the time. Now , whenever I look like I need something even if I do not ask, they always help me doing stuff that I cannot do; then I realized that they both love me all this time and it was me that never realized that I was very selfish to never give them any. I always asked for stuffs but never gave. From that moment, I always try to share things with my brothers and help each other out. Thus, the examples above emphasize that love is about giving. That is how people love, families, brothers, lovers; when they love, they give.

Lastly, love is forgiving. Love is merciful and is not focused on other people's mistake. From my experience, I once loved a girl. For these past years, we were always together. Until one day after she came back from her vacation, she suddenly said that she did not love me anymore. Her words shocked me, especially when I remembered back when she was on vacation, we were still in touch; we talked on the phone, texted, etc. I was wondering and thinking about her all the time. Then, all of a sudden it was all changed. I was very disappointed and upset. At one moment, I longed for her and at the other moment, I was nothing to her. I asked her to explain about our situation but her explanation was not something that I could simply accept. I keep battling myself between my mind and my heart. I even ask other people what I am supposed to do. Everybody told me to do what other people would do; just do not care about her anymore, hate her, and throw away all the stuff that reminds me of her. Then I tried to do that but it was just hurting me even more. Finally, I realized that I still love her and it would take me

sometime to forget her. If I could just forget her in a night, do you think I really love her? My love was not something that happens just because of the circumstances or anything. No matter what she did to me, whether she loved me or not, I do not care about that. I feel happy when I see her happy. Whenever I see her enjoy what she does, I always want to support her and help her keep doing what she enjoys and likes. After a while, I realized that love is all about giving the best to the loved one; it is not about expecting something in return or even anything. I do not expect anything from her anymore. I only wish that she could be happy wherever she is and she could live a happy life with the person she loved the most. I know I feel pain when I see her with someone else, but it is nothing compare to when I see her being with someone she does not love. I feel that I was the one to blame when I realized that for more than a year, she was struggling to deal with the person she did not love. When I just think about what will happen to her if she has trouble or need help, but no one helps. I feel much more painful in my heart. Now, I still have not forgotten about her and I do not think I would be able to. Nonetheless, I never regret any moments with her because I loved her. After all that happens, I never hate her and I did forgive her because she was someone precious to me, I want her to be happy with someone she loves. For that reason, I believe that love is very powerful and it forgives anything.

According to one passage in the bible, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres. Love never fails." (1 Corinthians 13: 4 – 7). That passage is true. Love is not self seeking. I was stupid because I got very frustrated and sad when I first noticed that the person I loved did not have the same feeling and did not give the same amount of love that I have given her. I did not know what to do and what

to expect. This was my mistake; I unconsciously seek something that I should not. In other words, I want her to have the same feeling and return the same amount of love as I gave her. This is when I realized that love is not about receiving what you want, instead it is about giving what you can to the person you love, also it is not conditioned upon anything. I really believe that it is true and that love is not about ourselves, instead it is about the people we love. When people love, they are unselfish, they give everything they can without any reason or certain condition, and they will forgive any mistakes.

Work Cited

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Holy Bible, 1 Corinthians 13: 4 – 7