

How to Tell If You're in Love

(Scripture: John 14:12-15)

Young people wonder if they are in love, really in love.

Older folks also wonder sometimes.

One way to answer that question is to go to 1 Corinthians 13 and see the characteristics of true love - but we are going to use a different approach.

If you are unsure if you are in love, it can help to ask seven questions.

SEVEN QUESTIONS

(1) *Do you think of him (or her) often?*

If you can go for hours or days and never think of him, you are not in love.

You cannot love someone without thinking about that loved one any more than you can have sunshine at midnight.

(2) *Do you want to please him (or her)?*

True love is unselfish (1 Corinthians 13:5).

When you love someone, you think less and less of yourself and more and more of him.

He likes to play tennis, so you learn to play tennis.

She likes the color blue, so you wear the color blue.

(I am not speaking of things right or wrong, but of matters that are optional)

(3) *Do you want to make a good impression on him (or her) - in your appearance and conduct?*

Any mother with a son can tell you of the difference in her son's appearance and conduct before and after he becomes interested in girls.

(4) *Do you like to be with him (or her)?*

Would you rather be with that person than anyone else?

Would you prefer to be with him than with the most famous movie star or the biggest singing sensation?

Does time drag when you are not together?

(5) *Do you have implicit faith in him (or her)?*

Love "believes all things" (1 Corinthians 13:7).

A relationship cannot be built on physical attraction; there must be faith and confidence.

Would you be willing to put your life in her hands?

Would you be willing to put the lives of your children in his hands?

(6) *Do you want to make him (or her) happy? Do you enjoy giving him (or her) gifts?*

You cannot separate love and giving.

You can separate ham and eggs, salt and pepper, but you cannot separate love and giving.

God can "do all things" (Job 42:2), but even God cannot love without giving (John 3:16).

(7) *In your thoughts, do your present and future center in him (or her)?*

Is it impossible for you to imagine a future without that person?

Do you feel that with him, everything will be all right, and that without him, nothing will be right?

There's no guarantee that answering all seven "yes" will definitely prove that you are in love.

(Someone with a strong infatuation *might* answer "yes" to all seven)

However, it is guaranteed that if you answered any of the questions "no," you are *not* in love - not yet anyway.

These questions are so simple and so basic that someone might ask, “Why did you even bother bringing them up?”

Because there’s a kind of love that’s more important than your love for another human being.

It’s about Jesus’ love for you and your love for Jesus.

JESUS’ ANSWERS - AND OURS

Regarding Jesus’ love for you, He could answer “yes” to the seven questions: You are in His thoughts.

He even thought about you before you were born; you were in His eternal plans and purposes (Ephesians 3:11, 12).

He has done everything to make you truly happy.

He came to this earth to be with mankind; He wants to be with you (Matthew 28:20; 2 Timothy 4:22).

He wants you to spend eternity with Him (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

Jesus obviously loves *you*.

The question is: “Do you love *Him*?”

Let us go through the seven questions again:

(1) *Do you think of Jesus often?*

If someone is not constantly in your thoughts, you do not love him.

How often do you think of Jesus?

Is He only in your thoughts during Sunday worship services?

Paul said that if something is “*worthy of praise*” - and Jesus is - you should let your mind “*dwell on these things*” (Philippians 4:8).

One way to know what is in another’s mind is to note what he says.

“*For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart*”

(Matthew 12:34b).

Do you tell others about the Jesus you love?

(2) *Do you want to please Jesus?*

Jesus’ love for God motivated Him to put God’s will first in His life.

He said, *“I always do the things that are pleasing to Him”* (John 8:29b).
He told His disciples, *“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me”*
(John 4:34a).

In the Garden of Gethsemane, He prayed, *“not My will, but Yours be done”* (Luke 22:42b).

Regarding your love for Jesus, how successful have you been in putting aside your own desires so that you might please Him?

(3) *Do you conduct yourself so as to make a good impression?*

When a man is baptized, he becomes *“a new creature; the old things [have] passed away; behold, new things have come”*

(2 Corinthians 5:17).

Does your life show this change?

Does your conduct confirm it?

Does your appearance demonstrate it?

Regarding your relationship with the Lord, is it that obvious that a new love has come into your life?

(4) *Do you like to be with Jesus?*

Christ wants to be with you.

His invitation to all is *“Come to Me”* (Matthew 11:28a).

Jesus was so close to Paul that the apostle could write, *“Christ lives in me”* (Galatians 2:20).

Do you want to be with Jesus?

In John 6 we read that “many of his disciples . . . walked no more with Him” (v. 66; KJV).

The text does not have to say, “They no longer loved Him”.

That is obvious.

Let me make this question as practical as possible:

Do you like to read your Bible?

Do you like to sing praises to Him?

Do you like to pray through Him?

Do you like to gather with your brothers and sisters in Christ?

Christ has said, *“For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst”* (Matthew 18:20).

Do you like to be with Jesus now?

Do you want to be with Jesus in heaven?

He told His disciples, *“I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also”* (John 14:3).

Heaven would be heaven even without streets of gold and gates of pearl - just as long as Jesus is there!

(5) *Do you have implicit faith in Him?*

It is important to have faith in those you love; it is absolutely essential to have faith in the Lord.

The Bible speaks of different degrees of faith:

“great” faith (Matthew 8:10; Luke 7:9; see also Matthew 15:28) and

“little” faith (Matthew 6:30; 8:26; 14:31; 16:8; Luke 12:28),

“strong” faith (Romans 4:20) and

“weak” faith (Romans 14:1).

What kind of faith do you have in the Lord?

Do you have the faith of Job, who said, *“Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him”* (Job 13:15a; KJV)?

Do you have the faith of David, who told God, *“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me”* (Psalm 23:4a)?

Do you have the faith of Peter, who walked to Jesus on the water (Matthew 14:29)?

Do you have the faith of Paul, who wrote, *“I know whom I have believed”* (2 Timothy 1:12)?

(6) *Do you want to make Him happy? Do you enjoy giving Him gifts?*

Paul said that you prove “the sincerity of your love” through giving (2 Corinthians 8:8).

The early chapters of Acts tell about Christians who loved the Lord so much that they were willing to give up everything (note Acts 2:45).

What will motivate a man to give in such a sacrificial way?

Paul said that the key is first giving oneself to the Lord (2 Corinthians 8:5).

I refer not simply to the giving of money, but to the giving of time, abilities, and strength.

If you love Jesus, you will obey His commandments.

(7) *Do your present and future center in Him?*

When you sing, “**Jesus is all the world to me,**” do you mean it?

Paul wrote, “*But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ*” (Philippians 3:7, 8).

Paul was not interested in a future that did not include Jesus.

CONCLUSION

Are you in love?

If you are, then you have to show your love for Christ.

How do I know that?

Because Jesus said, “*If you love Me, you will keep My commandments*”

(John 14:15), and He made it clear that He wants all to believe and be baptized (Mark 16:16).

Is it possible that you were once in love with Jesus but your love for Him has cooled?

Jesus told the congregation in Ephesus, “*I have this against you, that you have left your first love*” (Revelation 2:4).

He urged them, “*Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place*” [they would cease to exist as a congregation] “*unless you repent*” (v. 5)

If your love for Jesus is not what it once was, then you, too, need to repent.

You need to return to Him through confession and prayer

(Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9; James 5:16).

John said, “*We love him, because he first loved us*” (1 John 4:19; KJV).

How can you keep from loving the One who loves you so much?