

*What Is This Thing Called Love?*

Sometime, maybe back in the forties, there was a popular song entitled, *What Is This Thing Called Love*. Instead of us finding a good answer by 2006, we've just become more confused about what love really is.

Our society has so many different ideas that are all called love, we really should have several new words to differentiate them. We have mother love, puppy love, Hollywood love, married love, brotherly love, romantic love, passionate love, pornographic love, and some of us love pizza. We are confused about love, luv, lust, eros, infatuation, emotions, feelings, friendship, concerns, desires, chemistry, intimacy, charity, agape, fondness, compassion and even pedophilia. In pop literature the word love is often used for any of these.

Some of the things called love are not loving at all. A selfish desire for pleasure should hardly be called love. On the other hand, love is not always nice either. It can be painful, self sacrificing and difficult. In the Bible God commands us to love one another. He instructs husbands to love their wives. God never commands the impossible. Love is not something we fall into or out of without our consent. When someone says, "I just don't love him anymore." Well the answer is simple. "Then start loving him again." Love is a decision to do everything for the good of another, even when we don't feel like it. It is not the emotion. It's not our selfish desire either.

Funny thing: Throughout human history, most couples did not fall in love first and then get married. For various practical reasons they got married first and then learned to love one another. There were not nearly so many divorces as we Americans have today.

So.... What is this thing called love? ??????? It's a mystery, that's for sure. Maybe it has something to do with a God who is love. What do you think?