

## SIDE A

# LOVE 101

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, and it keeps no record of wrongs. 1 Corinthians 13:4-5

As Michael W. Smith sang in "Trilogy" "If love is mathematical you'd understand the sum, to the hearts equation where one and one makes one". He conveys the enigma of love, but of course love is not mathematical. It can't be resolved in an equation. It is mysterious and spontaneous and in reviewing the featured scripture above we see that it is many things. Notice that there are more things that love is not than love is. Why is that? Do you suppose that because we are prone to so many of the other things that it's a lot easier to show us how to love by showing us what not to do?

We are created in the image of our Creator and we know Biblically that God is an emotional God. "And the LORD was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it hurt him to his heart". (Gen 6:6). Interesting, huh? And again from the Psalms, "The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love". (Ps 145:8). We know that this is part of being created in the Image of God; So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Gen 1:27). Which brings us back to love, "He who does not love does not know God; for God is love". (1Joh 4:8). And here we are right back where we started, defining the width, the height and the depth of love. Even though it is an emotion love exists beyond the scope of feeling, it has to because love is limitless which means it has no boundaries. Don't believe me; take a look at the cross! You won't find any boundaries there. Here is the limitless exhibition of God's eternal and boundless love for us, and that is where love starts in us. "We love, because he first loved us". (1Jo 4:19).

Love is Tolerant and enduring, it is gentle and thoughtful. It doesn't show-off or brag, it isn't bad mannered or vulgar. What do the preceding words all have in common? They all require some type of action! Do and not Do, love on our part requires that we do something or don't do something, "like be patient and keep your mouth shut". And love, "for God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power and love and self-control". (2Tim 1:7).

## THE FLIP SIDE

# NO FEAR IN LOVE

IONA

Like a river of fire stretched across the sky  
Peering into the veil of the aurora's light  
My soul is drawn by love, too pure for words  
Deeper than instinct, beyond my reason

I am lost in wonder at what fills my gaze  
Lost in my thoughts of such infinite ways  
I am found in mercy, I am found in love  
I am found in the flow of water and blood

There is no fear in love  
There is no self to gratify  
There is no argument to win or lose  
Love is beyond the mind  
Love is beyond its reasoning  
Love is the path that leads to paradise

Like this great arc of sky, a window to infinity  
A bright and deathless morning waiting for me  
Love to be imprinted on my heart, like notes upon a score  
'The music eager to open heaven's door

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There is no argument to win or lose  
Love is beyond the mind  
Love is beyond its reasoning  
Love is the path that leads to paradise

On this distracted planet  
So wounded by our greed  
Where we have taken more  
To satisfy our need  
Where love is our salvation  
The perfect mystery

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