



The Truth About Love

Greg Tanis and Samantha Yamasaki

Jan/Feb 2013

What is true love? This Valentine's Day Americans will have their annual celebration of love. But is this love that is being celebrated, the "love" that is so common in our society today, really true love?

Popular culture is filled with various ideas of true love. Movies and books such as *The Hunger Games* show the heroine of the story using love to manipulate others for her own good. *Romeo and Juliet* is considered a perfect love story filled with true, unending and, impartial love. However, in this story the main characters idolized each other to the point that they were nothing without the other. Their shallow love leads to a hasty marriage and many foolish decisions. Three days later they killed themselves showing no consideration for their friends and family who mourned their death for years to come. In addition to this, popular children's media such as the Disney Princess Films can give young kids a wrong idea of what true love is. Many of the characters in these movies simply decide they "love each other" and live happily ever after. However, in reality, the love exhibited in these movies is often merely infatuation. This supports the false idea that true love "just happens."

We are surrounded by countless false ideas of love. Many people believe that "love just happens" and that you either

love someone or you don't. It's an uncontrollable feeling. A third example of false love that is extremely common in our society is selfish love. Instead of thinking about what we can do for the other person we merely think about what we can get out of them.

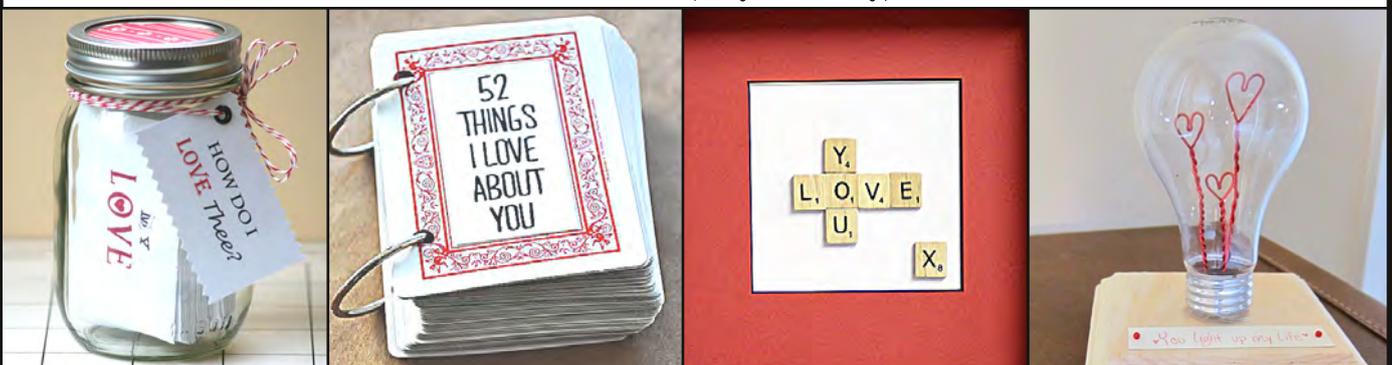
If all these common ideas of love are false then what is true love? We must first recognize that our understanding of love has to be founded on God's definition, which we can find in The Bible. True love (as defined by The Bible) is not simply a feeling. As humans, our feelings change all the time. If love were merely a feeling then what would happen when that feeling died? In order for love to last, it must go beyond simply a feeling. The feeling of love must be transformed into a caring love, a love that looks out for the happiness of the object of the love, not what could be gained through the relationship. True love according to the Bible involves deciding to love another person regardless of how you feel about him/her, giving of yourself for that person, sacrificing money, time and strength for the benefit of the person, and seeking nothing but the best for the other person. Loving others involves not speaking evil of them, not being bitter towards them and not gossiping with them or about them.

God doesn't say we should only love others who show us love in return.

The Biblical definition involves loving our enemies as well. In Matthew 5:44, Jesus says "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." God gives us the greatest example of true love in the sacrifice of His son. John 15:13 says "Greater love has no one than this, that a man lay down His life for His friends." We don't deserve God's love, yet he poured it out on us. This is true love.

A verse in the Bible that contrasts the self-seeking love so common in our society is 1 Corinthians 13:4-7: "Love is long suffering, kind, does not envy, does not brag, is not arrogant or rude, does not seek its own, is not irritable or resentful, thinks no evil, does not rejoice in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things and never fails." If romantic love, which often begins with infatuation and strong feelings does not mature to where 1 Corinthians 13 love is at the very center, it will not endure. Sadly, this is why so many of the "love relationships" in our culture fail so quickly. Romantic love ought to be modeled after the sacrificial and unconditional love that Christ has for the church. Christ loves the church to the extent of giving his life for her. A husband should love his wife like Christ loves the church, his bride. This is the type of love that will endure forever.

Need some ideas for creative cards and gifts to give the ones you love on Valentine's Day? Here are a few cute (maybe cheesy) ideas!



Decorate a glass jar similar to the picture on the far left and fill it with reasons why you love the other person. Have a spare deck of playing cards on hand? Write 1 reason why you love them on each card. Another creative way to tell someone you love them is a craft using fun word play. In the middle-right picture, framed scrabble letters are used to write "Love You". In the picture on the far right wires are used to make hearts and put on the inside of a light bulb with the words, "You Light up my Life" next to it. Some other fun word play would be giving a pair of socks and saying, "We make a good pair," or giving some hot wheels cars and say, "I Wheelie like You."

Effects of a Tragedy

Ethan Hastings

In light of the recent school shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, preventing further similar tragedies has become the focus of the public. Many politicians contend that further restrictions on gun purchase and ownership would prevent shooters from acquiring the weapons used in these shootings. Opponents of this gun control believe that the Second Amendment to the Constitution explicitly outlines and guarantees the right to purchase and bear arms. Debates between proponents and opponents of gun control come to a head every time there is a major shooting, and this time President Obama may even declare an executive order, banning certain weapons.

An examination of the raw facts and statistics surrounding guns can provide insight on how to best view gun control. About 30% of Americans own guns. America's gun owners primarily use guns for protection against crime, home defense, and target shooting, secondly hunting, and a small number of people like policemen use them for crime prevention. America is 28th in gun crime compared to other countries worldwide. The UK banned almost all civilian ownership of guns, and now it has the highest crime rates and is widely regarded as the least safe country in Europe. In America, the huge majority of gun crimes, almost 66%, were suicides and would not be affected by gun control to any large extent. There are about 30,000 gun related deaths each year. Of those only 11,000 are homicides. Of those, law enforcement related deaths and legal defense homicides make the number of actual murders even smaller. Therefore, when politicians cite the large amount of deaths by guns in America to promote gun control policies, they often use skewed statistics that appear to show

many more actual murders than are actually committed.

Gun control itself is also impractical and to a large degree impossible. In 1994 Senator Dianne Feinstein created the definition "assault weapon" to describe certain types of guns. It differentiated guns for aesthetic reasons such as stock or grip appearance, not for fire rate or lethality. The term "assault rifle" refers to a fully automatic rifle, but this "assault weapon" definition is vague and meaningless to a large degree. Banning guns for aesthetics is not effective at preventing shootings. Many weapons dubbed "assault weapons" have the same basic build as similar semi-automatic pistols, so banning one and not the other would not solve the problem of how to prevent shootings and would only take away valuable hunting and defense weaponry such as AR-15s. About 44% of owners are former military or law enforcement, who enjoy using a familiar rifle. The typical owner is over 35 years old, married and has some college education. These honest Americans are the ones who will be affected by a proposed ban, not the criminals who will continue to use whatever they could acquire.

The other major issue being debated currently is whether decreasing the number of bullets in magazines or clips would make a meaningful difference in preventing shootings. The VA Tech shooter used 17 clips with ten rounds each, which is below the proposed maximum clip size. This did not not impede him from firing hundreds of rounds, killing 32 people, showing that gun control for assault weapons won't stop gun-related crime, because banning rounds won't prevent bringing in more clips. Also, the shooters in the vast majority of these tragedies acquired their guns illegally, getting around laws

already in place, so passing more legislation against guns when we can't control what's already illegal is futile.

What then is the answer to preventing more shootings? We have legislature banning certain weapons and declaring schools "gun free zones," yet nothing seems to prevent individuals from committing these horrible acts. After any tragedy the media and politicians are quick to find a one-size-fits-all reason they can point to for crimes such as: drugs, alcohol, bullying, and violent video games leading to insanity, not enough restriction on weapons like guns, etc. In reality, we should accept that fundamentally we are flawed human beings. A combination of other factors might be to blame to some extent, but we must realize that humans sin. It's our nature. The majority of these shooters come from broken homes with poor family situations, which means proper moral values were likely not present. The sinful hearts of these people are truly the cause, so they are responsible for their actions.

Ronald Reagan once said, "We must reject the idea that every time a law's broken, society is guilty rather than the lawbreaker. It is time to restore the American precept that each individual is accountable for his actions." If we as a society refuse to acknowledge individual responsibility, how can a society comprised of individuals expect to improve? We cannot expect to avoid tragedies and crimes completely, because malicious intent is always present in man's heart, but we must strive to promote family values and turn towards God. Only then can we effectively make policies that attempt to deal with these atrocities.

Thanks to Andrew Justnes for his contributions.

February-March

NNJCSA Bible Contest.....	February 12
Pizza Lunch.....	February 13
No School.....	February 18
Hot Lunch (11th).....	February 22
Open House.....	February 27
Monthly Morning Prayer Meeting.....	March 5
HS Fine Arts Festival.....	March 12
Pizza Lunch.....	March 13
Pi Day.....	March 14

Blazer Culture

Kathleen de la Fuente and Jestira Mladenovic

Creative Writing: Sonnets by Our Students

Procrastination
by Ethan Hastings

If one perchance should leave his fields untilled,
His work undone, and without hope to start,
'Tis not a cause to view him unfulfilled;
His sloth hath simply suited him as art.

And if one sees his tasks not to his taste,
Thus beckoned elsewhere by some trifling toy,
You mustn't tell him that he must make haste;
His indolence hath been his source of joy.

And if there comes a night before a test,
When merriment the student doth beguile
With games, computers, phone calls, and the rest:
"To study now would be too great a trial."

Put not upon his paper too much red.
Let mercy curve the test results instead.

Love
by Ryan Stempert

A virtue beyond others all, yet e'er
Thought wrongly of by most who on it write:
They say it is, indeed, the skin's snow white;
And snow it is, by its all-cov'ring lay'r.

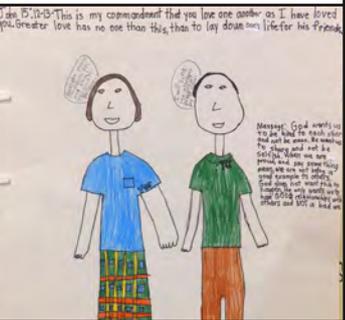
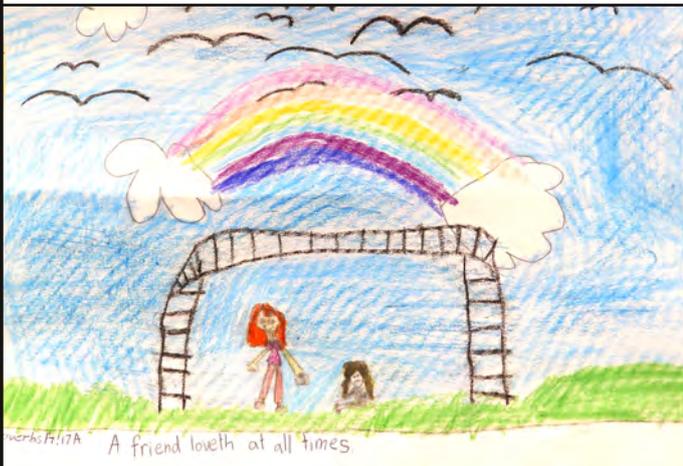
They say it is of eye the star,
A star, by shining light, though this brings pain.
They say it is of voice's music the strain,
It music is: it gives, get not a whit.

They say it is of cheeks the roses red;
The rose it is, by its instructing thorn
That virtue, pleasure for, those should not scorn
Who need it, though they seek flower instead.

They say it is in beauty of the form,
It is soul's beauty, virtue midst life's storm.



Poster Contest Results: Congratulations to Sylvia Azer!



The winners of our poster contest were chosen based on their representation of the theme, effort shown, and visual appearance of the posters. Congratulations to our winners: **Sylvia Azer** in first, **Joey Falcicola** in second, and **Elena Forrest** in third.



Honorable Mention:
Ian Kaiser submitted a beautiful colorful collage. It was so artfully done, we decided to give it an honorable mention.

A visual art prompt for you to try: If you had your dream home, in your perfect place... draw what your ideal view would be from your window, or balcony.

A creative writing prompt for you to try: Write from the point of view of a car that has just gotten a new paint job.

If you have any artwork or creative projects that you would like to contribute to the newspaper, talk to Kathleen or email the Trinity Times directly at tcsnewspaper2011@gmail.com.

Looking at the Big Picture

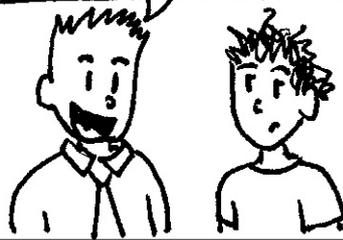
Jonathan Campbell

Earlier this year, the school newspaper handed a survey out to us seniors asking a variety of questions. One of the questions was, "Looking back at your time in secondary, what would you have done differently and what were some mistakes that you wish you hadn't made."

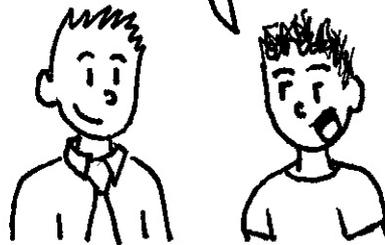
Like many of you may currently be, during my first year or two of secondary/high school I was unfocused. I disregarded the advice of my teachers and parents to work hard in school and instead chose to spend my energy on entertainment and girls. I got through several years of secondary with decent grades, but really never excelled in anything. I was choosing to settle for average, nothing more.

I planned to finish high school this way until a mentor put life into perspective for me. In the grand scheme of my life, what is the importance of reaching a level in a video game? Or what is the significance of a middle school or high school crush? Does it matter if I have seen this movie or that movie? 25 years down the road, will I look back at high school and be glad that I spent so much time on some game? Or

HEY, MAN. HOW WAS THE
MEDIOCRITY MEETING?



WELL ... I GUESS YOU
COULD SAY IT WAS ...



will I wish I had done something more with my life?

High school is critical to the rest of your life. Your performance here determines what college you end up in, and ultimately will have a huge influence on your profession. In high school, you develop habits that will shape your life and make you either successful or allow yourself to strive for nothing more than mediocre. I encourage you all to do your best to put things into perspective. Prioritize. Strive for excellence.

I have come to realize in my own life that creating priorities is best done by introducing balance into daily life. Do your best to balance out the spiritual, mental, and physical. Be sure to spend time with God each day. Work hard in your studies, but also find time to exercise. Of course entertainment and recreation has its part in life, but too much time spent in that area will force another area out of balance.

I hope you all understand how important high school is and what impact it will have on the rest of your life. Create habits now that will be beneficial and not destructive.

Wondering about Washington?

Danielle DiQuattro

In honor of President's Day, here is some presidential trivia.

The smallest President, James Madison, was 5 feet, 4 inches tall and weighed less than 100 pounds.

The heaviest President, William Howard Taft, got stuck in the White House bathtub.

Benjamin Harrison was the first President to attend a baseball game.

The first President born a U.S. citizen was Martin Van Buren.

Gerald Ford worked as a model during college.

James Buchanan was the only bachelor president.

George Washington didn't have enough money to get to his own inauguration so he had to borrow \$600 from his neighbor.

James Monroe, the fifth president, received every Electoral College vote except one. The delegate wanted to preserve the legacy of George Washington, the only President elected unanimously by the Electoral College.

Ronald Reagan won the Most Nearly Perfect Male Figure Award from the University of California in 1940.

Calvin Coolidge liked to have his head rubbed with petroleum jelly while eating his breakfast in bed.

Theodore Roosevelt was the first American to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

The "S" in Harry S Truman doesn't stand for anything; therefore, there is no period after his middle initial.

William Henry Harrison died of pneumonia one month to the day after making, in the snow, the longest U.S. presidential inauguration speech.

Andrew Johnson would only wear suits he made himself.

Jimmy Carter is the first known president to go on record as seeing a UFO.

Herbert Clark Hoover gave his White House servants strict orders to hide from him whenever he passed by. Those who failed to do so were at risk of being fired.

George Washington made the shortest inauguration speech on record—133 words and less than two minutes long.

James Garfield could write Latin with one hand and Greek with the other hand simultaneously.

On his epitaph, which he composed, Thomas Jefferson neglected to mention he had been the President of the United States.

Thanks, Mr. Nelson, for your help in fact-checking!

The Blazer Broadcast

Daletyn Harris

Junior High Girls Basketball:

<i>Home:</i> Parsippany	Lacordaire	Harmony	ABL Nutley	Hackensack	ABL Whippany
win 24-9	win 21-8	win 22-15	win 24-9	win	win
<i>Away:</i> Ringwood	Hackensack	ABL Whippany	Parsippany	ABL Nutley	Sussex Christian
win 12-0	win 22-12	win 23-4	win 15-7	win 22-6	win 22-17

Junior High Boys Basketball:

<i>Home:</i> Parsippany	Lacordaire	Harmony	ABL Nutley	Hackensack	
loss 38-19	loss 27-26	loss 18-4	loss 33-13	loss 25-3	
<i>Away:</i> Ringwood	Kearny	Hackensack	Parsippany	ABL Nutley	Sussex
loss 33-11	loss 26-9	loss 30-6	loss 32-8	loss 23-5	loss 24-2

Varsity Girls Basketball:

<i>Home:</i> ABL Nutley	Faith	Kearny	Parsippany	Veritas	Hackensack	
win 40-15	win 61-23	win 53-14	win 40-39	win 44-38	win 34-26	
<i>Away:</i> Hackensack	Faith	Kearny	Parsippany	Veritas	ABL Whippany	Nutley
win 56-35	win 42-27	win 61-33	loss 32-30	loss 31-21	win 41-20	win 49-18

Varsity Boys Basketball:

<i>Home:</i> ABL Nutley	Faith	Kearny	Parsippany	Veritas	Hackensack	
loss 58-24	loss 57-52	loss 54-51	loss 88-50	loss 49-30	loss 47-31	
<i>Away:</i> Hackensack	Faith	Kearny	Parsippany	Veritas	ABL Whippany	Nutley
loss 43-34	loss 56-42	loss 45-23	loss 79-33	loss 48-26	loss 53-38	loss 59-39

**Come on out and support
our teams at the
Varsity Tournaments!**

Location: Abundant Life Nutley

Date: February 22 and 23

Time: TBA



Congrats, Junior Varsity Girls!

Caroline Chicola



This basketball season has been awesome! Every single girl gave all she had and worked her hardest. I saw everyone on the team improve in their own way. I'm so happy I got to be on the same team as all of them, and I'm going to miss them all next year. To make it even better we came out undefeated!

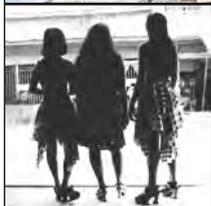
The tournament was a blast even though we were all nervous. But as the game progressed our nervousness subsided and we were able to play the game as taught by our coaches, Mrs. Holmes and Mr. Ted. We couldn't have accomplished what we did without them.

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Thanks to everyone who contributed to the World Vision fundraiser! If any of you are interested in donating your time and money then please check out their website: donate.worldvision.org. There you can find opportunities to donate, get involved in various events, or even sponsor a child.

Love Vs. Fear

Mr. Jeff Holcomb

1 John 4:18: "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear..." Rom. 5:5: "Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts..." Eph. 2:12: "At one time, you were separate from Christ... strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world..."

Love. Hope. Fear. What thought provoking topics! They go to the very core of our beings, whether it's Valentine's Day or any other day of the year.

Let's start with hope, or rather the lack of it in our world. Hopelessness, anxiety, despondency, even despair are palpable everywhere, so intense that they can be almost touched or felt. Even among those committed to Christ there is an atmosphere of discouragement.

Despite the discouragement that comes from the sin and negativity that permeates our culture and the prospect that things may not improve, we should "not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope," because we know that come what may, God loves us and will "never leave us or forsake us."

Do you believe that the true antidote to hopelessness and fear is to be "accepted in the beloved" and loved unconditionally by the God of the universe? I hope you do. The Bible says it is true. Genuine love, Christ-like love, has this amazing ability to displace fear. Why be fearful when you know your sins are forgiven, and "nothing can separate you from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus"? Even on the human level, when on the receiving end of selfless, Christ-like love, your relationship worries will evaporate.

Have you experienced the love of God offered to all sick of their sins, longing to be forgiven? If so, you need not live in fear, but have every reason to be filled with hope. Let the Scripture cited here wash over your soul. I promise, if you have given your life to Christ, your spirit will be lifted and you will want to show that kind of love to others. This would be the best Valentine's gift of all.

Bringin' It to Blaze

Anita Witten

Now that a new year has started, it might be time for some changes in your community or in your own personal life. You might want try a new food or go somewhere that you've never been before. Maybe you want to climb Mt. Everest or go skydiving (in my opinion, that's a little high-risk). However you may want to change this new year; why not change someone else's life too? You can offer your services to a neighbor, raise money for those affected by Hurricane Sandy, or contribute to different organizations for those in poverty.

Recently, the school raised money for an organization called World Vision. The purpose of this fundraiser was to collect money to provide various animals for families in need. I'm proud to say that Trinity Christian School raised \$1,982! A special thanks to all those who contributed and a big shout out to the 1st graders who raised the most money. With that money we were able to buy 13 small farm animals, 7 sheep, 1 pair of goats, 2 alpacas, 35 ducks, and 3 rabbits.

New Year's Resolutions:

- Study more and focus on school work.
- Do devotions more.
- Eat healthier, exercise more, drink more water.
- Sleep more and read more classics.
- Smile more often!

Prayer Requests:

- Mrs. Zazopoulos as she continues to recuperate from her surgery and thanksgiving that she is doing well.
- The seniors as they are starting to receive acceptance letters from different colleges and for guidance as they decide which college will be best for them.
- For students to continue to persevere through the last two marking periods of the school year.

Please send all contributions to tcsnewspaper2011@gmail.com or put them in the folder downstairs at the end of the locker hall. Thank you!