

## “LOVE IS LARGE”

Ps. Jimmy Rollins.

Some of us are looking for love in the right places, some of us are looking for love in the wrong places.

Let's look at this powerful scripture :

*1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (TPT)*

*"Love is large and incredibly patient. Love is gentle and consistently kind to all. It refuses to be jealous when blessing comes to someone else. Love does not brag about one's achievements nor inflate its own importance. Love does not traffic in shame and disrespect, nor selfishly seek its own honor. Love is not easily irritated or quick to take offense. Love joyfully celebrates honesty and finds no delight in what is wrong. Love is a safe place of shelter, for it never stops believing the best for others. Love never takes failure as defeat, for it never gives up. Love never stops loving. It extends beyond the gift of prophecy, which eventually fades away. It is more enduring than tongues, which will one day fall silent. Love remains long after words of knowledge are forgotten.*

This passage of scripture starts off with this,

**LOVE IS LARGE. Large Love.**

Love is big, it's large, it has capacity.

Many of us are trying to decide if we are ready for love, are you ready for love? Am I ready for love? Is the person you're dating right now ready for love? If you're already married, is your love large?

Is it large enough to hold someone else's junk? Is it large enough to endure ups and downs? Is it large enough to embrace people that don't deserve to be embraced? Is your love as large as God's love is for you?

Many people think they are ready for love, but what they are really ready for is companionship. With love there is always companionship, but it doesn't stop at companionship. It is not just about compatibility.

- *Compatibility is defined as: "capable of existing or living together in harmony."*

Compatibility is not love.

There is a difference between COMPATIBILITY AND CAPACITY.

When we talk about Love is Large, compatibility is good but we can't stop compatibility. We have to move from compatibility to capacity. Compatibility is a great floor, but a terrible ceiling.

Love is not just compatible, but it must also have the capacity to hold everything that the other person comes with. It must be God ordained to be connected to. Your love has to be large, as the scripture says.

You cannot settle for a knock off version of love, you might be compatible but you don't have the capacity.

- *Capacity: the ability to receive or contain, the maximum amount or number than can be contained.*

*Love's large capacity, like the scripture says, is gentle, generous, puts others before itself, a love that is not selfish, not easily celebrated...*

*That is the kind of capacity you have to have for your spouse, that the Church needs to have for the world.*

*We need to have the love that is large and not be a knock off version, but be the authentic connection to God that distributes love to everybody, anybody and any one.*

## **TO HAVE LARGE LOVE:**

### **1. Large love covers my history.**

*1 Peter 4:8 (AMP)*

*"Above all, have fervent and unfailing love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins [it overlooks unkindness and unselfishly seeks the best for others]."*

Love is large, it covers someone's history.

We should have the capacity to love in spite of someone's history. God had the capacity to love you in spite of your history.

Does your love handle the unedited version of others? Can your love handle the backstory of somebody?

God is love.

*1 John 4:16 (NLT)*

*"We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them."*

When we have large love we can't decide where we are going to give that love to or what we are going to give that love to. It's big to hold people's history.

*John 3:16 (NIV)*

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

No matter your history, love is a gift

## 2. Large love can endure humanity.

*1 Corinthians 13:7-8 (TPT)*

*"Love is a safe place of shelter, for it never stops believing the best for others. Love never takes failure as defeat, for it never gives up. Love never stops loving. It extends beyond the gift of prophecy, which eventually fades away. It is more enduring than tongues, which will one day fall silent. Love remains long after words of knowledge are forgotten."*

God's word in action couldn't stop with compatibility, it had to go from compatibility to capacity. To endure each other's humanity.

Large love endures humanity. Nobody is perfect on this side of eternity.

Large love is covenant love, it's not circumstantial.

In your worst season, God's love is at it's best.

## 3. Large love leads you to destiny.

In the beginning of the book of Matthew, it talks about the genealogy of Christ and then it gets to somebody named Joseph. And when it gets to Joseph it doesn't talk about what Joseph produced, it talks about who he loved, "the husband of Mary".

Joseph was the only one named for what he protected, not what he produced.

Is your love large? Does it lead your spouse to their destiny?

I believe that God's best for your relationship is yet to be seen.

I believe that as you read 1 Corinthians 13, you are going to have **Large Love**, the kind of love that God has for you.

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## "I LOVE EVERYTHING THAT IS DIFFERENT ABOUT MY SPOUSE."

*Ps. Irene Rollins.*

The word I have for you is a little bit about Jimmy and I's story, it's about how we started out loving things about each other that later turned into resentment and hating one another, for the very things that drew us together in the first place. .

*1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NLT)*

*"Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance."*

Loving everything that is different about your spouse is such a challenge. So the very things that Jimmy and I were drawn together by in the first place, literally began to divide us later in our marriage.

I remember coming back from our very first date and telling him, "I love everything different about you." And in that moment we had confirmation that this relationship was from God.

When we got married it was the beginning of a wonderfully, awful, catastrophic relationship. Our dysfunction had become normal.

We were completely unhappy in our relationship. But when we hit this crisis point, we began to realise that there was hope on the other side of us dealing with our issues. We had to get real with one another. We had to make a decision that we had to use this mess for Gods glory.

There was revival. God has done some amazing things in my marriage. It started with Jimmy and I having to identify our strengths and weaknesses. Our differences were meant to bring us together, but it tore us apart. The acknowledgement of each other's differences, did not mean the absence of our own strengths. It was wrapped in humility.

Start with appreciating all that God had done in your relationship, appreciate where you started.

Identify your strengths and weaknesses that you each bring into your relationship.

When we acknowledge our weakness, the power of Christ is established in you.

### *2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (TPT)*

*"My grace is always more than enough for you, and my power finds its full expression through your weakness. So I will celebrate my weaknesses, for when I'm weak I sense more deeply the mighty power of Christ living in me.[So I'm not defeated by my weakness, but delighted! For when I feel my weakness and endure mistreatment—when I'm surrounded with troubles on every side and face persecution because of my love for Christ—I am made yet stronger. For my weakness becomes a portal to God's power."*

When you admit your weakness to your spouse, the grace of God comes in and gives you the power to walk out whatever you are dealing with.

You can be a Strength Based Marriage.

Look at your marriage through the lenses of your strengths, know where each other are weak and cover each other's weaknesses.

**1. Identify your strengths and weaknesses.**

**2. Have honest and vulnerable conversations.**

Create brave and safe spaces for you and your partner to openly communicate with each other. Revival happens with a lot of work and intentionality.

Start off with appreciating each other and acknowledging the good.

Creating a safe space:

- We need to "Empathize" with each other.
- Listen with active listening skills.
- Mirroring. Be curious and ask questions.

Jimmy and I's radical transformation in our relationship happened when we created these safe spaces for dialogue.

Take a step back and remember the bigger picture, you are on the same team with your spouse.

And remember what the scripture says,  
"Love endures all things."

- 1 Corinthians 13:7

When you identify your strengths, own your weaknesses and create safe spaces for honest communication and dialogue, God can do a transforming work in your hearts and in your relationship.

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