

What it Love?

Part One: Temporary, Twisted, or True?

Ah, love. That mysterious force that makes angels sing, butterflies flit, and feelings fuzz warmly. At least, that's the kind of love we like. After all, it is effortless, heady, and its glasses are rose-colored and half full. (Apparently, it is also responsible for a number of sappy clichés.) But, alas, this love (or facsimile thereof) is not sustainable. It is but a temporary state that must eventually submit to reality and, dare I say, our true selves. Yet it is not without merit as it has certainly been the genesis of countless beautiful unions and precious offspring.

Unfortunately, the loftiest things can also be the most twisted. Abortion advocates have brazenly taken the arguably most cherished attribute of God and turned it into a macabre justification—the bizarre notion that taking the life of an unborn child is really an act of love. Some abortion providers encourage women to write “love letters” to their children before aborting them. One letter was published in a city newspaper:

“Dear Baby, I believe you will be better off in heaven. I am not sure I could provide you with a stable and healthy environment. I do not feel that emotionally or financially I could care for your every need...In forecasting my future, a dismal and grim picture is all that I can imagine. I hope you can understand my reasoning and can forgive me. I will see you in heaven. Love, Mom.” (NRL News, 1/13/25)

How may this “act of love” play out in future family dynamics. Sibling survival guilt? A blueprint for future action? Reread the above letter and replace “Dear Baby” with “Dear Mom” and “Love, Mom” with “Love, Your Child.” The devaluing of life can only perpetuate a cycle of death. We can call an abortion decision many things. But never Love.

The love that we all aspire to can take a lifetime to master. In its purest form, it is a selfless act of the will, prioritizing the well-being of *another*. It is not measured in feelings or demonstrated with words alone. True love requires action and sacrifice. (Whew! Just thinking about that wears me out.)

Part Two: Project L.O.V.E. 2025

As we settle into a new year, one never knows what it will bring. This year may find us face-to-face with a friend, family member, coworker, or even stranger who is considering abortion. The following L.O.V.E. approach (Heartbeat International, Inc.) can help us stay focused, attentive, and effective as we navigate a potentially life-saving conversation.

L. Listen and Learn. Prioritize listening over speaking. Our first instinct when talking to an abortion-minded woman may be to focus on what abortion would mean for the baby. However, taking the time to ask questions and listen will build trust, allowing her to open up and be more receptive to compassionate truth later in the conversation. Focus on open-ended, you-centered questions so you can interpret and confirm her state of mind and heart.

O. Open Options. After she has fully shared, we can take this opportunity to lovingly talk about the reality of abortion and its aftermath, paving the way for other options. Interestingly, a woman facing an unwanted pregnancy views ALL outcomes of her pregnancy negatively, but research suggests that “in pitting adoption against abortion, adoption will be the hands-down loser” (NRL News, 12/24). In this context, our *initial* focus should be carrying the child to term.

V. Vision and Value. Circle back to mom-focus again by awakening in her a new vision for her life. She is valuable, worthy of love, and stronger than abortion. As a woman, her maternity is a unique and miraculous gift. She can make positive life-giving choices, but she doesn't have to do it alone.

E. Extend and Empower. Provide practical help and support:

- Take her to a pregnancy center and follow up.
- Help her plan her next steps and make goals.
- Stay in contact as much as she needs/desires.
- Give emotional, material, and/or financial support (as you are able).
- Pray for her and with her.
- Provide babysitting? 😊

Ah, love.

