

REAL LOVE NOTES ERIC V. JOHNSON

WHAT FEEDS YOUR IDENTITY WILL INFLUENCE/INFORM YOUR CHOICES

Proverbs 23:7 *"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:*

"LET'S TALK ABOUT BASEBALL" OR "IN THE BIG-INNING"

GENESIS 2:18-25

"LONELY VS. ALONE" ADAM WAS NOT LONELY, HE WAS ALONE. BIG DIFFERENCE

1ST BASE- HE HAD A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

2ND BASE- THAT RELATIONSHIP FED HIS PURPOSE & IDENTITY

3RD BASE- HE HAD A JOB!

HOME BASE - HE WAS AT REST WHEN GOD BROUGHT HIM HIS WIFE.

FRIENDSHIP DEFINITIONS:

Love: Passion, care, and/or affection which is rooted in commitment and responsibility.

Close Friends: Friendship where there is freedom to discuss vital issues without fear or rejection.

Intimate Friends: Friendship where there is commitment to each other's growth.

Dating: A special kind of friendship between two people of the opposite sex with the goal of courtship and marriage in mind. Notice dating is the result of a friendship; courtship & romance should come after a very special friendship has been established. Dating should not begin until two people have become close, intimate friends and are in a position to get married.

TRUE FRIENDSHIP TEST

1. WHETHER SAVED OR UNSAVED, DO YOU ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR FRIENDS' LIVES?

Ezekiel 3:16-21

2. DO YOU FREQUENTLY PRAY WITH YOUR FRIENDS?

James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

3. ARE YOU THERE FOR YOUR FRIENDS EVEN WHEN IT'S INCONVENIENT FOR YOU?

Proverbs 17:17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

4. CAN YOU BE TRUSTED TO TELL THE TRUTH TO YOUR FRIEND AT ALL TIMES?

5. CAN YOU BE TRUSTED TO DO THE RIGHT THING EVEN AT THE EXPENSE OF THE FRIENDSHIP?

Proverbs 27:5,6, Open rebuke is better than love carefully concealed. Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

6. CAN YOU BE TRUSTED TO PROVIDE OR LEAD YOUR FRIEND TO WISE COUNSEL?

Proverbs 13:20 He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.

7. CAN YOU BE TRUSTED TO KEEP YOUR FRIEND'S BUSINESS TO YOURSELF?

Proverbs 17:9 He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates friends

8. ARE YOUR BEST FRIENDS PEOPLE WHO RESPECT YOUR LOVE FOR GOD?

I Corinthians 15:33,34 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God-I say this to your shame.

9. CAN YOU SHARE ANYTHING WITH YOUR FRIEND WITHOUT FEAR OR REJECTION?

Proverbs 25:19 Like a bad tooth or a lame foot is reliance on the unfaithful in times of trouble. NIV

10. ARE YOUR FRIENDS COMMITTED TO YOUR GROWTH?

Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, a friend sharpens a friend. NKJV

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Ecclesiastes 3:1,5b - "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under Heaven...a time to embrace and a time to refrain."

Ecclesiastes 3:1,5b - "There is a right time for everything: A time to hug; A time not to hug."

II Corinthians 5:17 What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!

I CORINTHIANS 13:4-8 ⁴ Love endures long and is patient and kind. Love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy; is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. ⁵ It is not conceited - arrogant and inflated with pride; it is not rude (unmannerly), and does not act unbecomingly. Love [God's love in us] does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it - pays no attention to a suffered wrong. ⁶ It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. ⁷ Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances and it endures everything [without weakening]. ⁸ Love never fails -- never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end.