



[**Teacher Note:** All Scripture used in this message comes from the New International Version.]

Introduction:

When asked the question, “What is love?” a group of four through eight-year-olds had a wide array of answers, ranging from amusing to profound. Here are their responses:

- Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other.
- Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your french fries without making them give you any of theirs.
- Love is what’s in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen.
- Love is what makes you smile when you’re tired.
- When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn’t bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That’s love.
- When you tell someone something bad about yourself and you’re scared they won’t love you anymore. But then you get surprised because not only do they still love you, they love you even more.
- Love is when mommy sees daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Denzel Washington.
- Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day.

And my personal favorite:

- When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you.

Anytime I think about love and whether I truly understand it or not, I think of a movie called *Anchorman*. In *Anchorman* there is a character named Brick Tamland, played by Steve Carell. Without giving away too much of the

movie, I'll just say that Brick is a few bricks short of a load. Most of the things that he says in the movie don't make sense. Brick is part of a news reporting team and in one scene, the news crew is sitting around in the office talking about love. Some of the guys are getting sentimental and giving deep, well-thought out comments about love. And Brick chimes in with some of the things that he "loves." Let's watch...

(PLAY ANCHORMAN I LOVE LAMP CLIP)

Video Clip: Anchorman: I Love Lamp

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ld35IMnFQ10>

I played this clip not only because I love this movie, but because I think we can all relate to Brick, or at least the logic behind the things he said in this scene. When it comes to love, do we really get it? Do we really love everything we say we love, or has that four-letter word just become another meaningless word to us? Our definition of love needs to come from nowhere else but God.

Have you ever wondered if we're missing it? It's crazy, if you think about it. The God of the universe – the Creator of nitrogen and pine needles, galaxies and E-minor – loves us with a radical, unconditional, self-sacrificing love. And what is our typical response? We go to church, sing songs, put a few bucks in the offering plate, and try not to cuss.

Whether we've verbalized it yet or not...we all know something's wrong. Something deep inside of our hearts longs to break free from the status quo. We are hungry for an authentic faith that addresses the problems of our world with tangible, even radical, solutions. God is calling us to a passionate love relationship with Himself. Because the answer to religious complacency isn't working harder at a list of do's and don'ts – it's falling in love with God. And once you encounter His love, you will never be the same.

These last two paragraphs can be found on the back of a book by Francis Chan called *Crazy Love*. It is a book that has meant a lot to me on my journey with Jesus and it lends itself perfectly to God's Word to us this

This preview includes a select number of pages from this resource.

If you like what you see, download the entire resource today!

downloadyouthministry.com