


What is Love?

Office of Youth Ministry

Holy, Engaged, Alive





Have you ever watched a movie in theatres and have been so entertained and moved by the motion picture?

Upon leaving the theatre, what do you do if you have really enjoyed the movie?



You talk about
it and invite
others to
view it.
“Great
film...you **HAVE**
to go see it!”

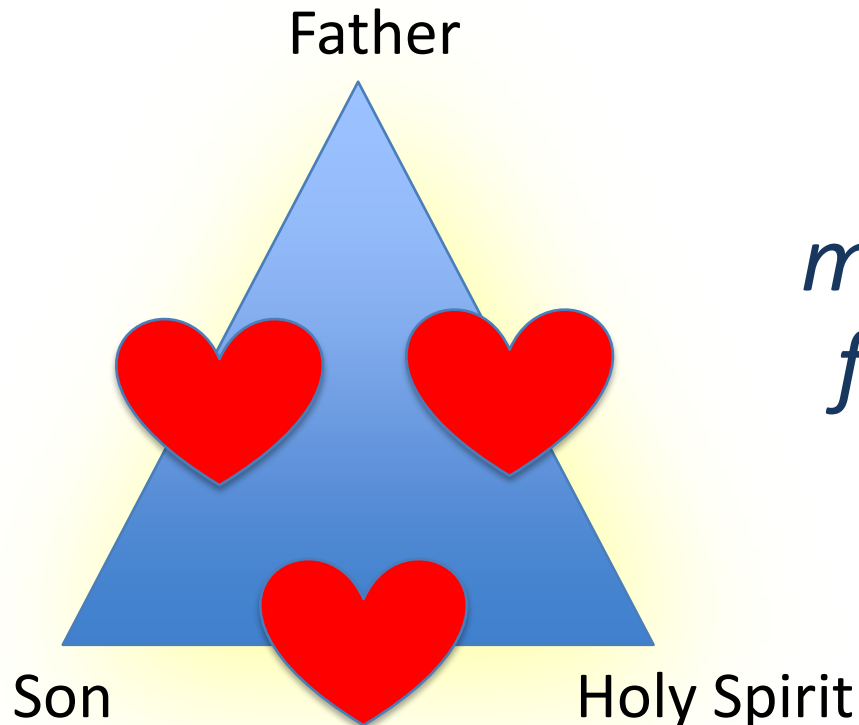
God wants to share **HIMSELF** with Us

- God...freely created man to make him share in his own blessed life (CCC 1)
- God wants us to know and share HIS LIFE.
What is HIS LIFE?
 - Love, Truth, Beauty, Everlasting Life and Joy
 - Sound pretty appealing?
- God doesn't keep the life of abundance to himself. He desires to invite us into it. Just as you see a good movie, you talk about it and invite others to it, God wants to invite you to be partakers in his life

God is a **FIERY INFERNO OF LOVE**



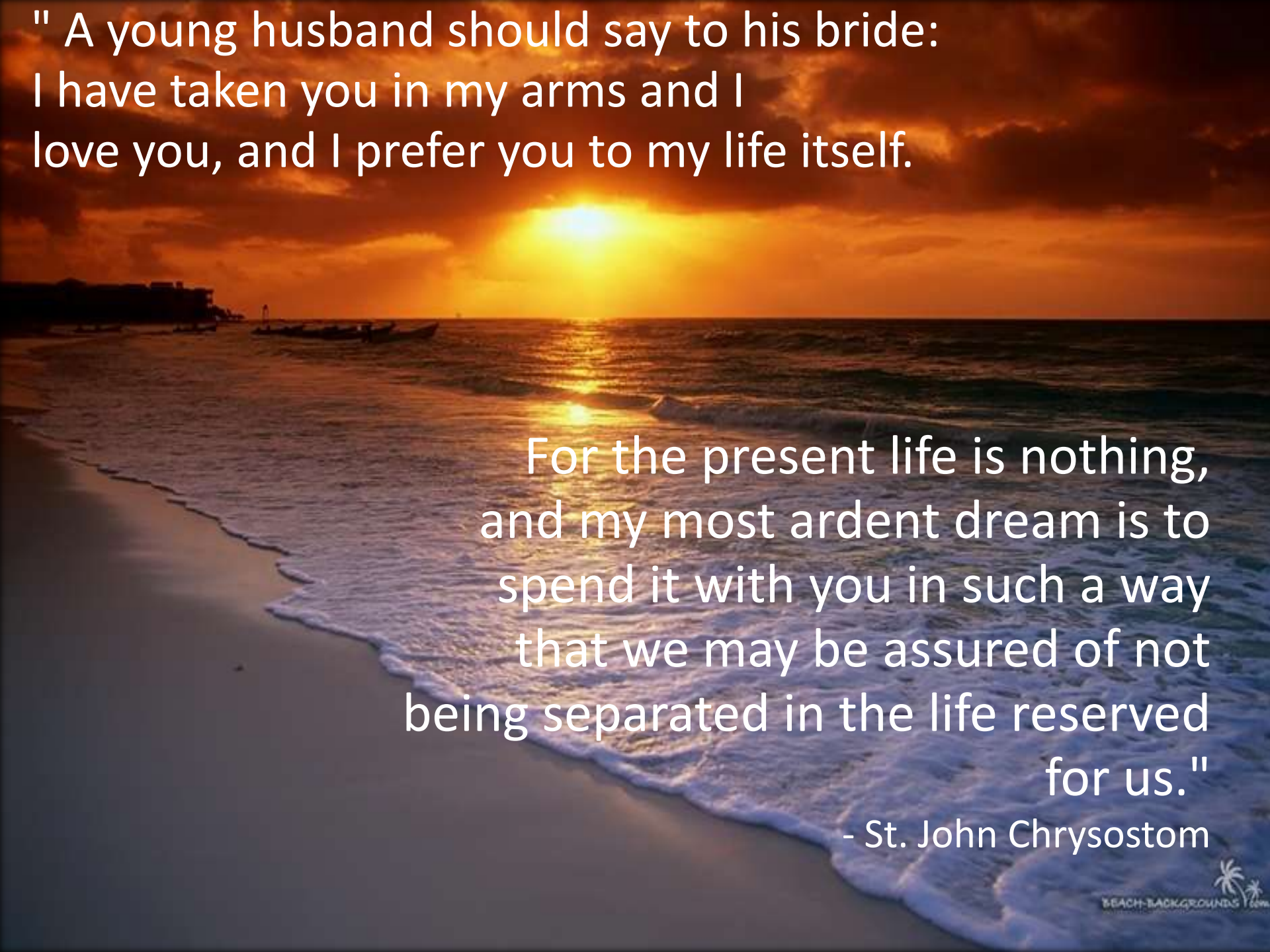
very large and dangerous fire



Explain what this means – that God is a fiery inferno of love.

What is love? ...baby don't hurt me

- **Love** = willing the good of another, sincere gift of self
- “The love which the apostle Paul celebrates in the First Letter to the Corinthians (patient, kind, endures all things...) is certainly a demanding love. But this is precisely the source of its beauty.” — Pope John Paul II letter to Families



" A young husband should say to his bride:
I have taken you in my arms and I
love you, and I prefer you to my life itself.

For the present life is nothing,
and my most ardent dream is to
spend it with you in such a way
that we may be assured of not
being separated in the life reserved
for us."

- St. John Chrysostom

Love – a Feeling?

- Love is WILLING someone's good but is often just reduced to feelings
- Feelings and senses matter, but are not the foundation of love.
- “every man must effectively deploy the energies latent in his sensuality and his sentiments, so they become **allies** in his striving for authentic love.” – Pope John Paul II

What good are feelings, then?

- A couple's passions and feelings must draw them close and achieve an objectivity
- “The value of an attraction depends on whether **the good to which it is directed is really what it is thought to be.**” – Pope John Paul II
- “It is not enough to long for a person as a good for oneself, one must also, and above all, long for that person's good.” – Pope John Paul II

Questions to ask yourself

- Do you truly want that person's good (are you able to tell them an eternal good, not just what makes them feel good in the moment)?
- Does that person truly want your good?
- Is your love selfish---are you looking to get something out of it?
- Are you able to rely on them and them on you?
- Is your main goal a use, pleasure, or a feeling? “Mere pleasure, mere sensual enjoyment is not a good which binds and unites people for long.” – Pope John Paul II

Lust

- Disordered desire for or enjoyment of sexual pleasure (CCC 2351)
- Sexual desire apart from God's love
- What can I "get" rather than what can I "give"
- Selfish, puts the self first



Cust

vs.

Love

What is the difference?

Lust (often mistaken for “love”)	Love

Lust

“Everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away.”

(Matthew 5:28-29)



*People wait around too
long for love. I'm happy
with all of my lusts!*

– C. JoyBell, Poet

Top Eight Reasons why Couples Divorce

Ask yourself before marrying, is my marriage built on true **LOVE**?

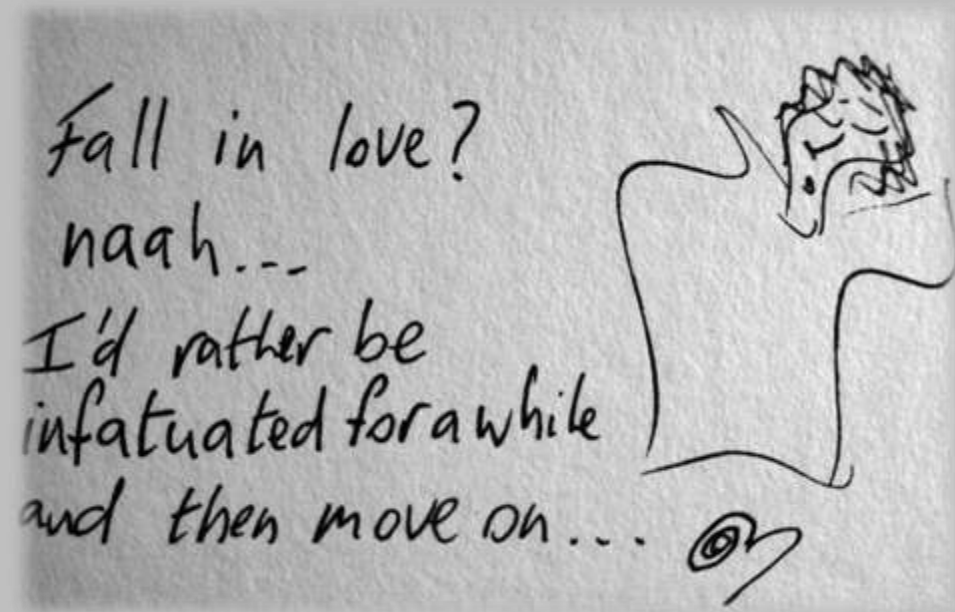
- Lack of Commitment
- Too much arguing
- Infidelity
- Marrying Too Young
- Unrealistic Expectations
- Lack of Equality
- Lack of Preparation
- Abuse



From the National Fatherhood Initiative

Infatuation

- Is an emotional condition
- Lacks substance
- Often obsessed with the superficial
- Feelings are in the forefront (which can often change rather quickly)



Love, Infatuation, or Lust?

It's not really anything he said or anything he did,
It was the feeling that came along with it.
And the crazy thing is I don't know if I'm ever gonna
feel that way again.

But I don't know if I should.

I knew his world moved too fast and burned too bright.
But I just thought, how can the devil be pulling you
toward someone who looks so much like an angel when
he smiles at you?

- Taylor Swift in "I Knew You Were Trouble"

Love is Demanding

- “...by the very fact that it is demanding, it builds up the true good of man and allows it to radiate to others.” — Pope John Paul II Letter to Families
- Man must understand that he only finds himself in a “sincere gift of self”
- How can the above quote be true (Man can only discover himself in a sincere gift of self)?



Love is Demanding

- Love requires us to will the ultimate good of another – not just what might cause the least arguing or create the least friction
- Love requires our full self. It requires us to set aside our temptations to be selfish and to will the good of another

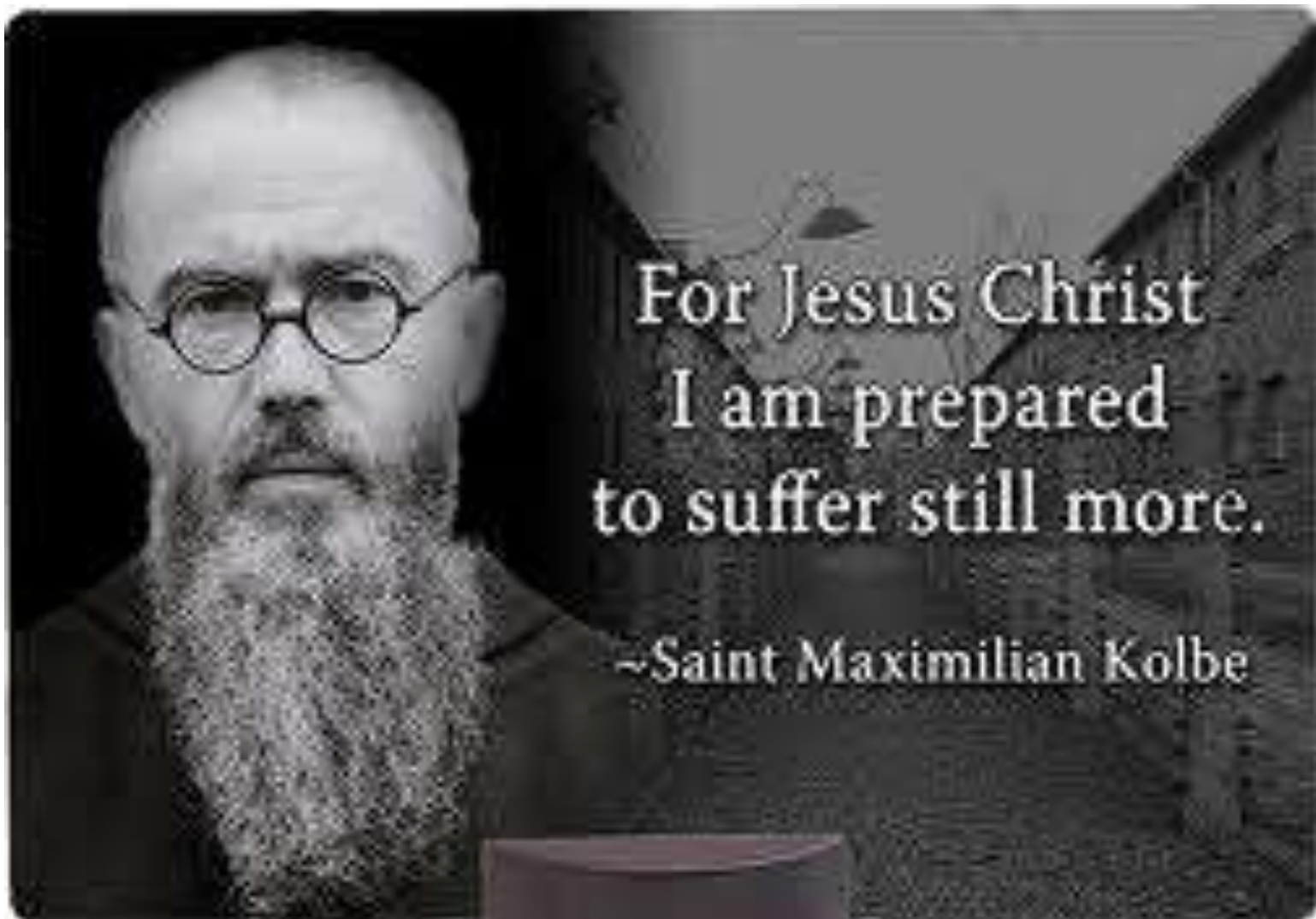


Maximilian Kolbe

died: August 14




Video Clip: <http://safeshare.tv/w/GGtVouQIST>



For Jesus Christ
I am prepared
to suffer still more.

~Saint Maximilian Kolbe

A sunset over the ocean with a quote overlaid. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds. The ocean is dark blue with white foam from the waves. The quote is in white text, centered in the lower half of the image.

"Love, to be real, must cost -
it must hurt -
it must empty us
of self."

Blessed Mother Teresa

Love isn't Miserable

- “My child, treat yourself well, according to your means... Do not deprive yourself of the day's enjoyment” (*Sir 14:11, 14*)
- Love allows you to focus on the joys of life rather than yourself
- Love allows you to freely give with no reservations and decreases the emphasis on the material goods or what you get back from it.
- Loving allows you to be more like God



Love.



Daily Ways to Love

- Spend 10 minutes asking someone about their own life
- Pray a hail Mary or a decade of the Rosary for someone who is suffering
- Give your dessert to someone at the lunch table
- Go to Mass
- Organize a group to make a dinner for a local soup kitchen
- Organize a Bible Study in your school
- Invite someone who is sitting alone to sit with you
- Offering a smile and a “hello” to someone
- Send a card to your grandma or grandpa
- Spend a Saturday afternoon visiting someone in the nursing home (even if you don’t know them)
- Go to confession
- Pick up one extra canned good when you go to the store and give it to the food pantry
- Don’t be too busy for people – give them 5-10 minutes of your time