

# *The Anglican Herald*

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## “What’s love got to do with it”

This is the title of a well known song sung by Tina Turner. This song along with “The Best” is probably among the most popular of Tina’s performances over many years. I will make a brief mention about “The Best” below.

*Tina Turner, is an American singer, songwriter, dancer, actress and author. She is one of the most popular female rock artists of the world and is known as the ‘queen of the rock’. Turner has received eight Grammy Awards in various categories and has been inducted in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Grammy Hall of Fame. She has sold over 100 million copies of her albums worldwide, which is why she has been named as ‘one of the greatest singers of all time’ by Rolling magazine.*

Well, what has love got to do with it? Quite a lot actually. Indeed if we give serious thought to the way we move through our life’s journey, we could well argue that all our experiences are grounded in love or in the absence of love.

Saint Paul reminds us in Romans that God’s love is a powerful love. Back in November 2018 I wrote **“When the power of love overcomes the love of power the world will know peace”**. It is the power of God’s love which sustains and ultimately completes the entirety of creation.

One of the central beliefs of our Christian Faith concerns the very nature of God Himself. We believe that God has shown Himself in a way that leads to the belief in the Trinity.

### Three Persons in One God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

There is therefore a community of persons within the Godhead. The Godhead is a community whose very nature is love. The Bible tells us that God is Love. Every action of God is founded upon a desire to express love as He makes His decisions concerning His creation.

God had no need to create anything. God's own being and nature gives Him all the love and relationships He needs. Why then did God bring something out of nothing? He did it because His love is so overwhelming that He wanted to share it beyond the Godhead and freely give it to a creation which He Himself would establish.

We believe that the crowning glory of God's creation is Mankind itself. God relates to Man and Woman in a way that is unique and differs from His relationship with any other part of His creation.

We were made in the image of God. This does not mean we look like God; rather it means we are to reflect the nature of God in our own lives. The nature of God is love – therefore we should act in all we do on the basis that it is an act of love. The overriding message of God's Commandments is that –

We should love God and love each other.

When we look at the world and its history we can plainly see that mankind's decision making and activity has not been based on love. From the time of Adam and Eve it appears that we have pitted our will against God's will and the result is a chaotic shambles. We see a never ending conflict between nations and factions within nations. We see men and women giving their lives to support one cause or another, often for reasons they don't understand. Australia's most revered day is Anzac Day – a day when we remember those who have sacrificed their lives in the Great War and other campaigns.

How much do we love God and each other?

Of course there is love in the world. In various ways we become aware of acts of bravery, courage and heroism. People go out of their way to help others and volunteer for charitable and worthwhile causes. We give of our time and money as an expression of care for the communities in which we live. Millions of people still actively support their religions as an attempt to show their love for their God. The world is in a shambled state but love exists within the world because God sustains His creation. God showers His love and mercy on all because He loves all mankind.

What about us, ourselves as individuals? We have all experienced family life; mother, father; perhaps brothers and sisters. We have all sorts of relationships of a personal nature. In living out our personal relationships we show forth what sort of a person we really are. But if we are perfectly honest we must ask ourselves, are we showing our true selves or showing only what we want others to see?

Most of us and probably all of us at some time have practiced the art of deception. We are very good at it; many of us use it every day in one form or another. Perhaps we have a neighbour who rubs us up the wrong way. When we meet we have polite conversation and act in a friendly manner, but we are really thinking that the world would be better off if this neighbour was on a different planet.

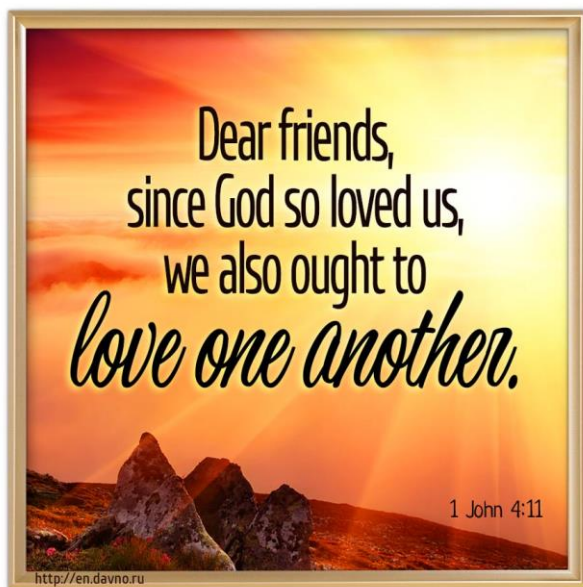
The deepest relationships we have are generally within our families. There is undoubtedly a special love and bond between family members; something that is meant to last throughout our earthly lives. But things can and do go wrong. For all sorts of reasons we find ourselves at odds with the people we should truly love. We fall out of love with each other. We experience separation, breakdowns and family strife over issues we seem to find impossible to resolve.

Most of us might think that the opposite of love is hate. Not so. The opposite of love is not hate; it is apathy or indifference. Hate is not the opposite of love because if there is hate, there is at least some feeling indicated. However if you were completely apathetic then you'd have no reason to hate; you wouldn't care at all.

How often do we examine our relationships? How often do we try to mend damaged relationships? If a relationship breaks down, do we really care? Do we show love to everyone we meet? Do we love all those in our church, book club, golf club, sewing circle or whatever?

Do I show forth the Love of God in my life?

God loves us because that is His nature – the very foundation of His being. We are made in the image of God and are meant to reflect that love. I'm sure that if we were to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit, He would be telling us that we could do better.



**The Best** – A little bird told me that although this song was released in 1988, Tina Turner wanted her recording of this song to be the theme song for the Fremantle Dockers Footy Club. Tina loves the Dockers.

**Don't tell Fr Brian this secret.**