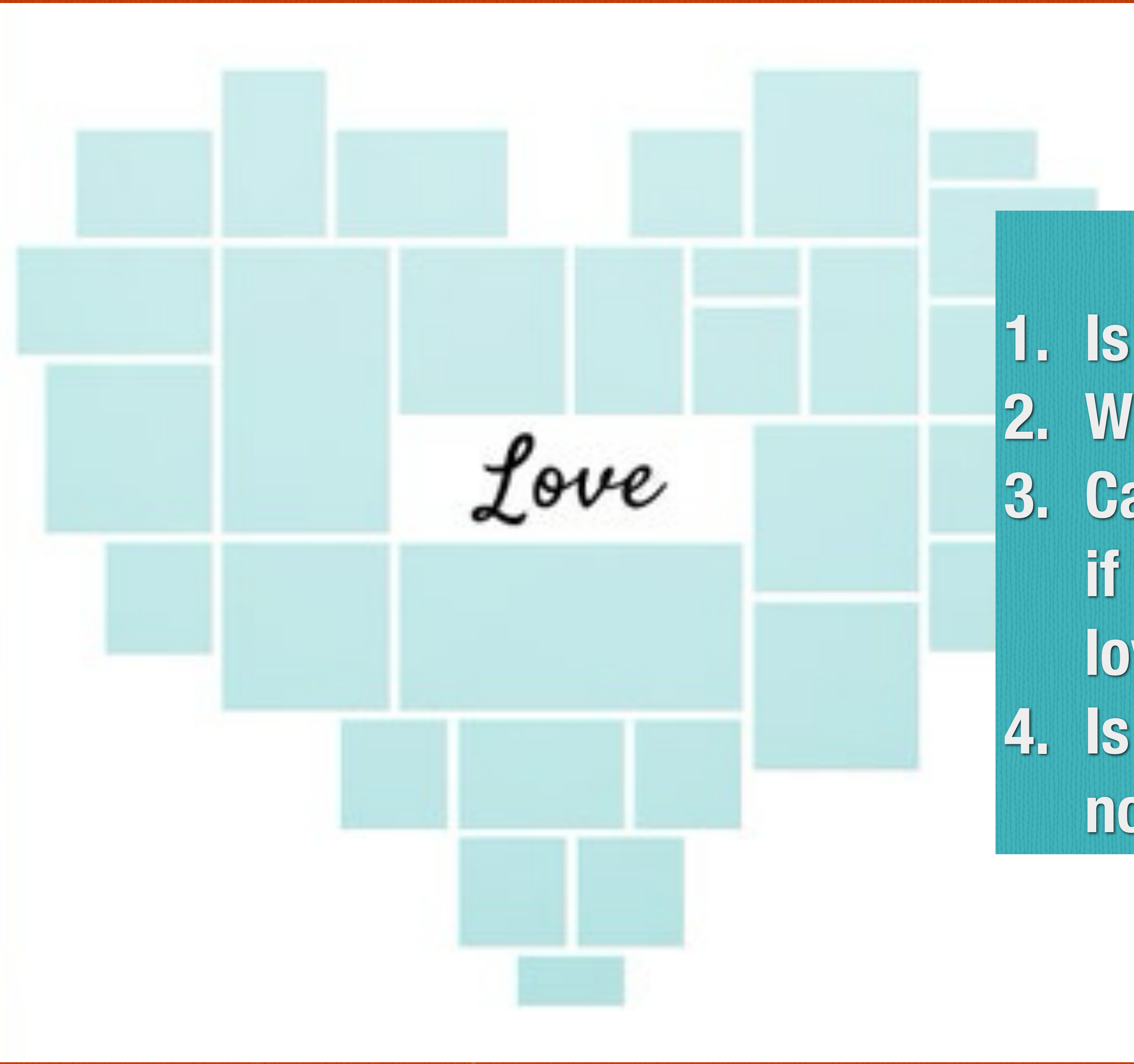


Using Love

Screwtape Letter #19



Love

Topics:

1. Is there really selfless love?
2. Why does God love man?
3. Can we be on the same path if we have differing views of love?
4. Is it better to be in love or not?

“The truth is, I carelessly slipped into saying that the Enemy truly loves humans. That’s impossible, of course. He’s one being, and they are distinct from Him. Their good cannot be His good. All His talk about Love must be a cover for something else.”

Philosophy of Hell

Love doesn't exist. There is no such thing as love. Everyone watches out for everyone, even family and friends. Everything is a competition.

What does He gain from them?

Screwtape: There is no such thing as selfless love

Why is hard for some people to believe there is a God who is not motivated by anything other than pure love for His creation?

How do you and I balance between healthy skepticism and hard-hearted cynicism?

“When the idea of creating humans was initially proposed, even at that early stage, the Enemy openly admitted that He foresaw an episode involving a cross. Our Father naturally sought an explanation. However, the Enemy offered no response except to concoct the story about selfless love, which He’s been spreading ever since.”

**What is God’s motive for unconditional love
(Screwtape’s perspective)?**

What is God's motive for unconditional love (Biblical Perspective) ?

Gen 1:27 So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them, male and female he created them.

Romans 5:6-8

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. **7** Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. **8** But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Tozer: “Man as he was originally created *is* God's beloved. Man *is* the beloved of the universe.”

“At this point in the conversation, I imagine Our Father’s disgust at such an unwarranted lack of trust led him to remove himself an immeasurable distance from the Presence abruptly, which gave rise to the absurd story among the Enemy’s followers that he was forcibly ejected from Heaven.”

Philosophy of Hell

God does not throw us out of heaven. Satan chose to not be in Heaven. Anyone who is not in Heaven is because he has chosen to be elsewhere. Some people do not want to be where God is.

From Screwtape’s perspective, what was the chief cause of their Father’s quarrel with the Enemy?

What does the Bible teach about this 'quarrel'?

Isaiah 14:12-13

12 How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! 13 You said in your heart, "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.

Ezekiel 28:15-17

15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were create till wickedness was found in you. 16 Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. 17 Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.

“Leave them to debate whether “Love,” patriotism, celibacy, candles on altars, teetotalism, or education are “good” or “bad.” Can’t you see that there’s no definitive answer? None of it matters except the tendency of a specific state of mind, in particular circumstances, to draw a given patient closer to the Enemy or closer to us.”

Is it more desirable to be in love or not?

Is there any use in debating ideals like love?

When love is 'bad'...

If he's an arrogant man who scorns the body under the guise of purity (though it's truly due to his sense of delicacy), and he takes pleasure in defying what most others approve, then by all means, encourage him to reject love.

When love is 'good'...

if he's an emotional, gullible man, inundate him with minor poets and second-rate old-school novelists until he believes that "Love" is both irresistible and intrinsically virtuous...it's an ideal recipe for cultivating prolonged, "noble," romantic, tragic affairs that might ultimately lead to murders and suicides

What is wrong with these 2 views of love? What is the main focus of these 2 views of love?



Using love vs True love

FOR LOVE'S SAKE Haven Quartet

*Lord, You were rich beyond all splendor
Yet for love's sake became so poor
Leaving Your throne in glad surrender
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor
Lord, You were rich beyond all splendor
Yet for love's sake became so poor*

*You are our God beyond all praising
Yet for love's sake became a man
Stooping so low, but sinners raising
Heavenwards by Your eternal plan
You are our God beyond all praising
Yet for love's sake became a man*

*Lord, You are love beyond all telling
Savior and King, we worship You
Emmanuel, within us dwelling
Make us and keep us pure and true
Lord, You are love beyond all telling
Savior and King, we worship You.*

