

Lindon

# CHARACTER

Connection



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Love

December 2012

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**“Love one another and you will be happy. It’s as simple and as difficult as that.”**

**- Michael Leunig”**

Love is that wonderful feeling of warmth, tenderness, and caring that arises within us for those we hold dear. Love also encompasses feelings of compassion for those in need, or who have been victims of the vicissitudes of life.

Love can be as simple as a passing tender thought, or a smile accompanied by a tear. One 7-year-old boy commented, “Love is what’s in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents, and listen.”

Love is perhaps manifested most often through simple – even if mundane and unnoticed – acts of caring and service. How powerful is the love that motivates mothers to carry and give birth to, wipe, wash, nurture, nudge, teach, train, feed, fuss over, praise and applaud their children for years on end. Yet such self-sacrifice spins and strengthens the cords of love ever tighter.

We frequently grow to love those we serve, as well as those who serve us. Love in many of our relationships is the fruit of invested time and energy that has resulted in understanding. In difficult relationships, love can even spring from a conscious decision. We can also employ its power to heal or bring peace.

We love those most whose needs we serve, those we take time to truly understand, and those who are able to be and share themselves in our presence. We love those who carry with them an attitude of happiness, or a spirit of optimism or gladness – those who have the ability to spread sunshine about them. Marion D. Hanks once stated, “Love listens, it hears, and senses needs in another.”

A great example of this recently occurred in our family. Upon learning of a serious and challenging complication in our daughter’s pregnancy, her caring neighbor hurried to her side and brought comfort in the form of a large assortment of chocolate, a warm embrace, and

some much-needed encouragement and perspective. As further explained by Marion D. Hanks, love “doesn’t just happen, it must be brought about by people who think, care, and make an effort.”

One of the great things about making a real effort to love others is the multitude of fruit love bears. One of those is trust. When we truly love others, it evokes their trust in us. One four year old put it this way: “When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth.”

Love also fosters friendship and affection, can bring us companionship, and generates acceptance and unity. Love can help us overcome tremendous obstacles in life, as in the story of a handicapped and misshapen young student. Talented in friendliness, he had won many scholastic honors and the respect of his classmates. When queried by one of his peers about the cause of his deformity, the young man replied, “Infantile paralysis.”

“How do you get the courage to face the world?” asked the classmate. “It’s was easy,” the boy replied with a smile. “The disease never touched my heart.”

Love, truly, can conquer all. In addition, love makes us more sensitive and generous and self-sacrificing. It helps us have more self-control, and makes it easier to forgive others. It makes us more considerate. It makes us better listeners. Love salves our wounds, gladdens our hearts, and is indeed the fountain from which all that is worthwhile in life springs.

*Marilyn Buckner, Lindon Resident Re-Printed  
from the December 2008 Lindon Character Connection  
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# Book List



Weird Parents by Audrey Wood

Fanny's Dream by Caralyn Buehner

The Gift of the Magi by O. Henry

Mama, Do You Love Me? by Barbara M. Joose

Old Jake's Skirts by C. Anne Scott



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## Family Activities

- Do a family Christmas service project.
- Have each family member write a "letter of love" to each other family member. Each person could make a large initial of the addressee and outline it with sentences of admiration and fond remembrances. Open these on Christmas Eve.
- Build a Christmas tree shape with pretzels and large marshmallows. Like the marshmallows connecting pretzels, the sweetness of love holds relationships together.
- Learn about Clara Barton, "Angel of the Battlefield" and founder of the American Red Cross, who was born on December 25, 1821.

## Thoughts on Love

"You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving."

-Amy Carmichael

"Love lives in cottages as well as in castles."

-Anonymous

"Love delights in giving attention rather than attracting it. Love finds the element of good and builds on it. Love does not magnify defects. Love is a flame that warms but never burns. Love knows how to disagree without becoming disagreeable. Love rejoices at the success of others instead of being envious."

-Father James Keller

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*Lindon Character Connection is a not-for-profit organization encouraging the enhancement of character development in our community. We are accepting volunteer or financial support.*

*If you can help please send contributions to:  
Lindon Character Connection c/o Lindon City  
100 North State St., Lindon, Utah 84042-1808 (You may also give your donation to any executive board member.)*

