

I Think I've Fallen in Love

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I. Introduction.

- A. Most people want to get married.
- B. Almost fifty percent of marriages end in divorce.
- C. Part of the problem is a failure to understand love.

II. Test: beliefs about love.

A. I believe that love at first sight occurs between some people.

- 1. The answer has to be no.
- 2. This is the difference between the feeling of love and genuine love.
- 3. The feeling of love is highly self centered.
- 4. The feeling of romantic excitement is never permanent.
- 5. The feeling can give way to love.

B. I think it is very easy to tell the difference between puppy love and real love.

- 1. This answer is no.
- 2. This is important to tell the difference.
- 3. One has to have time to understand his or her own feelings.
- 4. Give time to allow the other person develop his or her own feelings.

C. I believe that people who are really in love will not argue.

- 1. The answer is no.
- 2. People who love each other still have differences of opinion.
- 3. People are committed to working through these differences because of genuine love.

D. I believe that God selects a particular person for someone and guides them together.

- 1. The answer is no.
- 2. It is important to be cautious about feelings that come quickly.
- 3. People do not fall in love—they grow into love.

E. I believe that if a man and woman genuinely love each other, hardships will have little effect on their relationship.

1. Hardship does affect love.
2. One has to preserve and maintain it.

F. I believe it is better to marry the wrong person than to stay single.

1. The answer is no.
2. It is better to not marry than to marry the wrong person.

G. I believe that it is not wrong to have sex before marriage if the relationship is meaningful.

1. The answer is no.
2. Sex before marriage has terrible consequences.
3. Run from things that give you evil thoughts. (2 Timothy 2:22, Hebrews 13:4)

H. I believe real love is permanent.

1. The answer is no.
2. Real love must be maintained, supported and fed.

I. I believe that short courtships are best.

1. The answer is no.
2. A person needs time to understand their feelings.

J. I believe that teenagers are more capable of love than teenagers.

1. The answer is no.
2. Real love requires maturity.
3. Real love focuses on the other person's needs and feelings.

III. Conclusion: real love is caring for the other person almost as much as one does for him or herself.

Applications Questions:

1. How did you fare on the test? What did you learn about yourself?

2. Is there any answer you disagree with or would nuance? Explain.

3. What is the most valuable principle from the test? Explain.
