

Women of Worth | Word for the Week

Y-WoW Nation

Scripture: "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8 NIV)

The Power of Love

The Social Network, the movie which chronicled the birth of Facebook, was an interesting movie for any number of reasons. First, it provided a glimpse into the highly competitive atmosphere at one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious institutions of higher learning, Harvard University. Second, it painted a not-so-flattering portrait of Mark Zuckerberg, the wunderkind (young genius) behind the social media mammoth. Third, it showed the power of computing—how quickly and significantly it can change people's lives. As intriguing as those aspects of the film were, I was especially fascinated by the role that hormones played in the story. Perhaps it wasn't as overt as some of the other plot points, nevertheless, hormones were a motivating factor for nearly all of the main characters in the movie. To be fair, it's probably more accurate to suggest that love rather than hormones was the motivating factor. Just the same, romance, the loss of romance and the desire for romance were central to the development of the story. Case in point, Mark Zuckerberg. Because his girlfriend dumped him, he was motivated to write the code that caused the initial stir which made him a campus legend. In the opening sequence, his girlfriend dumped him and changed the course of his life forever. Fueled either by anger, hurt, shock, disbelief, embarrassment or some combination thereof, he worked through his emotions in a somewhat constructive way. He wrote a program and launched a "who's hot, who's not"-type of website which recorded thousands of hits in a few short hours and made him an overnight sensation on campus. *Lost love was his motivation.* Next up, the Winklevoss twins. Dissatisfied with the dating scene on Harvard's campus, the Winklevoss twins and company set out to launch a website to help students connect with one another presumably for the purpose of dating and/or socializing. *The desire for love was their motivation.* Finally, Sean Parker, the former hacker and mischief-maker that helped bring the music industry to its knees as co-creator of the free file-sharing website Napster, he too was motivated by love. According to his character, played by heartthrob Justin Timberlake, he created Napster because he was trying to impress a girl in an attempt to steal her from a guy who was in a band. There again, *the desire for love was his motivation.* All of this activity—technological inventions and the social revolution they spawned; competition, turf wars and infighting; contentious lawsuits over astronomical amounts of money—all of this was inspired by one little four-letter word, *love*. It was all inspired by the desire to love and to be loved. Amazing.

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Once I got over the initial shock that much of what happened, at least much of what happened in the Hollywood version of the story, was inspired by love, I started to wonder about the power of love. Just how powerful a force is it? Sure, the Trojan War was fought because of it in Greek Mythology. And Romeo and Juliet died for it in Shakespeare's tragedy by the same name. Even King Solomon, the wisest human being that ever lived, described love as being "as strong as death and passion as fierce as the grave" (Song of Songs 8:6). (*Translation: pure love is absolute and enduring; the devotion produced by pure love is indestructible and unyielding, it never gives up and never surrenders.*) Although each of those scenarios and definitions helped me develop a better understanding of the power of love, they all paled in comparison to the portrait of love painted by God through His Son, Jesus Christ. In Romans 5:8, the Apostle Paul described the perfect picture of love writing, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (NIV). The fact that God allowed His Son to suffer for our sins in order to bring us back into relationship with Him sets the standard for pure love. It's unconditional and it knows no limits. And the fact that Jesus Christ willingly endured the pain and shame of the cross as well as death, burial and the resurrection all for our sakes, that sets the standard for agape love. It's self-sacrificing. Together, they provide the portrait of perfect love—*it's complete selflessness and limitless compassion for others*. That's the way that God loves us. His love for us is perfect and it knows no bounds. When all else fails and when all others fail us, God's love remains. That's amazing. That's God. And that's love. God is love (1 John 4:16).

Although not the picture-perfect love of our Father, puppy love is still pretty potent. Having a first love is a memorable experience in a young lady's life. The idea of being attractive to and admired by someone special is pretty cool. And having someone do nice things for you is always awesome. But the emotions that accompany the experience can be a source of concern if they're not managed properly. *Why?* Because women sometimes implode or explode when relationships fail. That's especially true when it's the guy who ends the affair. There's no shortage of made-for-TV movies about real-life stories of women and girls who've come unglued, just completely unhinged, over lost loves. In many cases, the women have imploded; they've caused harm or injury to themselves. And in other cases, they've exploded; they've caused harm or injury to others. At any rate, that type of behavior is unhealthy to say the least. As Christians, there are only a handful of situations where we should even consider risking life or limb—either our own or someone else's. Those situations are 1) on the mission field protecting and defending the gospel; 2) on the battlefield protecting and defending our country; and, 3) on the home front protecting and defending our families. That's it. In nearly every other circumstance, we should work to find peaceful or productive resolutions to our problems. That's true particularly with respect to relationships. Self-injury and other destructive behavior is not the answer to the problem of lost love or unrequited love. In fact, just the opposite is true. *Self-improvement is the key to recovery*. So the next time a relationship fizzles, take a page from Mark Zuckerberg's book. Do what you do best. If you happen to be a computer whiz, develop the next big thing to take the computing world by storm. If you happen to be a singer, channel your passion and emotions into a hit song or two, post a few videos on YouTube and make 'em go viral Justin Bieber-style. Whatever your talent, make it work for you. Soon

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you'll be so busy with your new pursuit, you'll forget all about what's-his-name. And before you know it, you'll have achieved something significant in the process. You'll have become a success.

Remember, the next time a relationship ends sooner than you'd like, *don't get bitter, get better!* Go, do, become, invent. Make his loss your gain. You have nothing to lose, nothing to fear and a future as bright as rain.