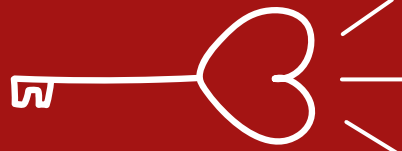


MARK 10:2-11

LOVE IS MORE THAN A FEELING

FOCUS ON THE THINGS THAT LAST, AND ATTEND TO THE FEELINGS THAT DON'T, AND ENJOY THE LIFE GOD HAS LAID BEFORE YOU.



CAN YOU THINK OF THREE SONGS THAT DEAL WITH THE THEME OF LOVE? PICK ONE: WHAT IDEA OF LOVE DOES IT PRESENT?



WHAT IDEA OF HAPPINESS IN RELATIONSHIPS DO TV PROGRAMMES LIKE "LOVE ISLAND" PRESENT? WHAT DO THEY NEGLECT TO EMPHASISE?

THE ANCIENT GREEKS CLASSIFIED LOVE IN FOUR WAYS

- ♡ EROS: DESIRE
- ♡ STORGE: AFFECTION
- ♡ PHILIA: FRIENDSHIP
- ♡ AGAPE: SELF-GIVING LOVE



Choose one of the following questions to discuss

- Which of the four types above do you think is the **most important** in a romantic relationship?
- Should you rely on **feelings only** to guide you in a relationship e.g. Eros (desire)?
- **How do you know** when you're in love?

WATCH FR MIKE SCHMITZ' VIDEO: "WHY LOVE IS MORE THAN A FEELING" AND REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW:

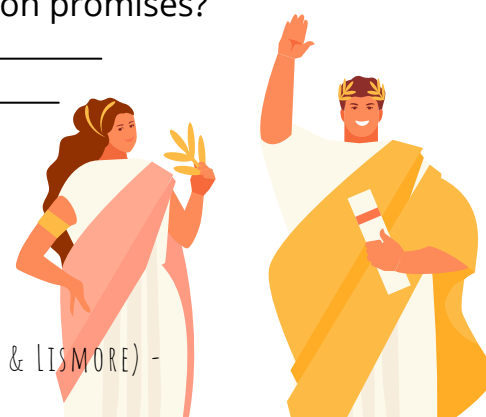


What was the most common reason given by the men competing in "The Bachelorette" TV Show for persuading the woman to marry them?

What kind of reasons did they not give for persuading her their love was real?

What do people often use to justify their reasons for going back on promises?

How did the Ancient Greeks see Eros in comparison to the other types of love?



LOVE IS MORE THAN A FEELING

MARK 10:2-11

Fr Mike speaks about "**deal-breaker**" areas when it comes to relationships i.e. if a couple has serious disagreements in **one** of these areas, their relationship could be on a dangerous road.



Choose two of the areas above and suggest how a couple could face disagreement that could lead to major relationship problems?



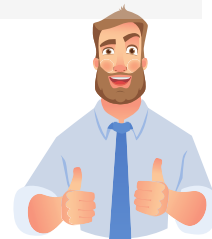
READ: MARK 10:2-11

In this Gospel Passage, Jesus speaks about marriage and divorce. Marriage break-up can, without a doubt, cause deep wounds and sadness for the couple and their families, and some have even had to leave their marriage for their own safety. Today is an opportunity to pray for those who are suffering, and for marriages that are in difficulty. We cannot get away either from the words of Jesus in this Gospel, as He speaks about marriage as more than just a contract, but rather as a "covenant". Contracts are for goods and services, and are conditional. Did you know however, that marriage is meant to be an image of God's faithfulness. His covenants are unconditional. They cannot be broken; and that is why the vows of marriage are supposed to be unbreakable too, "till death do us part". For this reason, the Catholic Church views the Sacrament of marriage as a very solemn thing, a beautiful thing, not to be entered into lightly. As a sacrament, marriage is a visible sign of God's love for the Church. The grace proper to this sacrament is "intended to perfect the couple's love and to strengthen their indissoluble unity." (CCC 1641)



MISSION!

THINK ABOUT THE TV PROGRAMMES OR MOVIES YOU WATCH, OR THE MUSIC YOU LISTEN TO, AND HOW THEY PRESENT THE IDEA OF LOVE. BE HONEST - ARE THEY PRESENTING A HEALTHY DEPICTION OF SELF-GIVING, SELF-SACRIFICING LOVE, OR ARE THEY JUST PROMOTING THE IDEA THAT FEELINGS ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT GUIDING FACTOR IN A RELATIONSHIP? MAYBE YOU'LL NEED TO MAKE SOME CHANGES IN YOUR VIEWING OR LISTENING SCHEDULE?



PRAYER TIME!

God our Father, You created me to know, love and serve You and to find my greatest happiness in following Your will for my life. If I am called to the sacrament of marriage, please bless my future spouse today. Grant that we may both grow in knowledge and love of You, and so become the best versions of ourselves. Amen



CREATE A PLAYLIST TO LISTEN TO AS YOU REFLECT ON THE MEANING OF LOVE



- What Love Really Means (JJ Heller)
- Your Love never Fails (News Boys)
- Faithful to the End (Bethel Music)
- How He Loves (David Crowder Band)
- Unfailing Love (Chris Tomlin)
- We are Yours (I am They)
- Love Never Fails (Brandon Heath)
- One Thing Remains (Jesus Culture)



Fr Mike Schmitz:
Love is an Ability



Hank and Helene, married for 62 years give some good (and funny!) marriage tips!