

## Love is a many splendoured thing 1

### Romantic Love

Love is one of those multi-purpose words. We use the same word when we say we “love” ice-cream and when we say, “no-one has greater love than this, to lay down their life for their friend,” or even, “God is love.”

Over the next four weeks we will look at four kinds of love: romantic love, friendship, affection and “agape” love.

### Romantic love is a good thing

There’s a whole book in the Bible that celebrates it.

### Romantic love has its time and place

Romantic love also has a limited shelf life. It’s normal for the feelings of being-in-love to pass after a while.

“*Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you by the gazelles and by the does of the field: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.*” (Song of Solomon 2.7; 3.5; 8.4)

### Romantic love is a powerful thing

*The power of love is a curious thing / Make one man weep, make another man sing / Change a hawk to a little white dove / More than a feeling, that’s the power of love.* (Huey Lewis and The News)

*love is as strong as death, / its jealousy unyielding as the grave. / It burns like blazing fire, / like a mighty flame. / Many waters cannot quench love; / rivers cannot wash it away.* (Song of Solomon 8.6-7)

Lovers often talk as if they’re intoxicated, that their love is so powerful that they aren’t really in control, and it does cause biochemical changes in your brain similar to being on drugs.

### The goal of romantic love is marriage

The Song of Solomon is a marriage song as well as a love song.

The goal of romantic love is to lead two people into a committed and exclusive relationship.

### The bottom line

Romantic love is a good thing - if you’re at a place where you’re willing and able to be in a committed relationship with another person that leads to marriage.