

#LOVED

# DOES GOD LOVE ME?

Type in the code that corresponds to your answer.

Your answers are anonymous, but your response will show on the screen.

Please join us in this poll. Use your mobile phones or tablets to text in your response. Text to number: **22333** and in the dialogue box text:

**606160** for **Yes**, always, I'm absolutely sure

**606161** for **Yes**, but with certain conditions

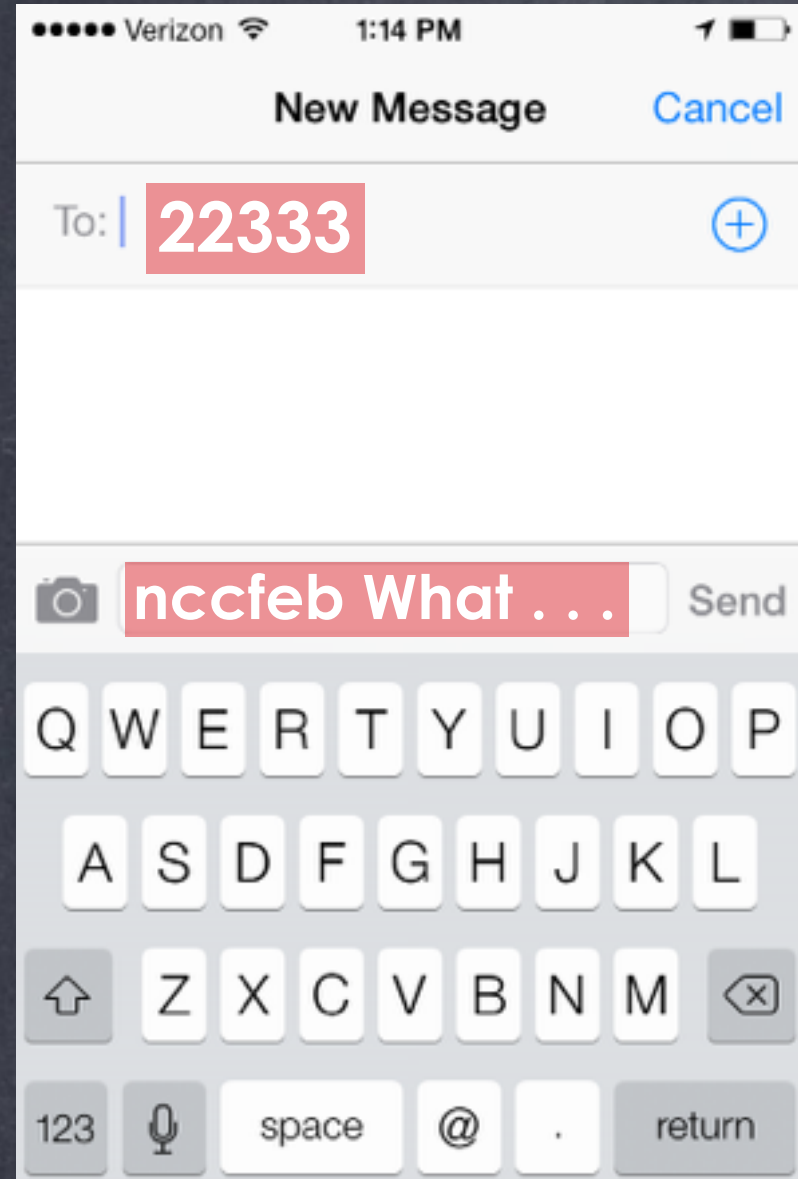
**606162** for **Sometimes**

**608033** for **Probably not**

**608035** for **No way**

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I HAVE A  
QUESTION  
RELATED TO  
WHAT YOU  
ARE  
TALKING

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# SPIRIT

He is incorporeal, having no visible substance. If God had a tangible body, He would not be omnipresent, He would be limited to one place

John 4:24 (NIV)

**God is spirit,** and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

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# LOVE

It is not simply that God "loves," but that He is Love itself. Love is not merely one of His attributes, but His very nature.

1 John 4:8 (NIV)

Whoever does not love does not know God, because **God is love.**

# LIGHT

God is light, means that He is the sum of all excellency. In Scripture "darkness" stands for sin, evil, death; and "light" for holiness, goodness, life.

1 John 1:5 (NIV)

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: **God is light;** in him there is no darkness at all.



# WHAT IS GOD'S LOVE LIKE?

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## 1. Uninfluenced

It is not decided by the exercise or virtue of its beneficiaries. The love of God is free, spontaneous, uncaused.

**Deuteronomy 7:7** The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. 8 But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore.

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# GOD'S LOVE IS

**1 John 4:19** We love because he first loved us.

## 2. Eternal

We believe that God is eternal, and so is His love. He has loved us from before time and will continue to do so eternally.

**Jeremiah 31:3** The Lord appeared to us in

the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.

## 3. Infinite

It has depth which none can fathom; it has height which no-one can scale; its length and breadth defy measurement.

**Ephesians 2:4** But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ. . .



#### 4. Immutable

His love does not change and will not fade away - it knows neither change or diminution

**James 1:17** Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

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## GOD'S LOVE IS

#### 5. Holy

God's love is not a sweet or affable weakness, His love is holy, powerful and passionate.

**Hebrews 12:6** because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son."

#### 6. Gracious

It has depth which none can fathom; it has height which no-one can scale; its length and breadth defy measurement,

**Romans 8:32** how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? . . . 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? . . . 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.



## 7. Knowable

His love is designed to be experienced, daily, continually and powerfully.

**Ephesians 3:14** For this reason I kneel before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so

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# GOD'S LOVE IS

that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, **being rooted and established in love,** <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to **grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,** <sup>19</sup> **and to know this love that surpasses knowledge**—that you may be

be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God

Know - ginosko (Greek) - to know, feel, understand, perceive, have knowledge of.

A Jewish idiom for sexual intercourse



## 8. Available and Unstoppable

His love is extended by open invitation to anyone who wants it. It is made available in Jesus Christ.

**Romans 8:32-39** He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who

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# GOD'S LOVE IS

then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is

written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” <sup>37</sup> No, in all

these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



# HOW CAN WE MEASURE LOVE?

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Around 600 B.C. Queen Amytis, married King Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylon for political reasons. She was very homesick. The Babylonian landscape (in modern-day Iraq) was arid and dull, and she missed her native Media, a lush, mountainous land. So Nebuchadnezzar commissioned the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, a series of spectacular planted stone terraces that seemed to float in midair.

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# HANGING GARDENS

## Expensive indulgences



The plants weren't rooted in the earth like a traditional garden.

It is estimated to have taken 8,200 gallons of water each day to keep the plants watered.

The gardens were hailed as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.



# TAJ MAHAL

## Extravagant memorials



Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan's favorite wife died in 1631, after giving birth to their 14th child. In her honor, the king ordered the construction of a mammoth white mausoleum on India's Yamuna River. The materials for the Taj Mahal, including many precious stones, were gathered from throughout central Asia and the gardens stocked with brightly colored birds, brilliant fish and exotic plants. Completed in 1648, it is

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among the most beautiful monuments in the world, the creamy marble radiant in the moonlight and seeming to blush at dawn.

At the end of his life, Shah Jahan was confined (by his own son) to a tower across the Yamuna. But his prison had a view of the beautiful tomb, which Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore would later describe as "a teardrop on the cheek of time."



The young British queen married her German cousin Albert in 1840. Protocol required her to propose. Her diary records her thoughts after first seeing him. "Albert really is so excessively handsome, such beautiful eyes, an exquisite nose and such a pretty mouth, a beautiful figure, broad in the shoulders, with a fine waist. Albert wrote her after their whirlwind romance and her proposal; "Dearest greatly beloved Victoria,

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# QUEEN VICTORIA

## Extended mourning



how is it that I have deserved so much love so much affection,? Heaven has sent me an angel whose brightness shall illumine my life. In body and soul, ever your slave, Albert."

The father of her nine children, Prince Albert was also among Victoria's shrewdest and most trusted advisers. When he died suddenly of typhoid in 1861, the queen was devastated. As a widow, Victoria, wore black every day until her death in 1901.



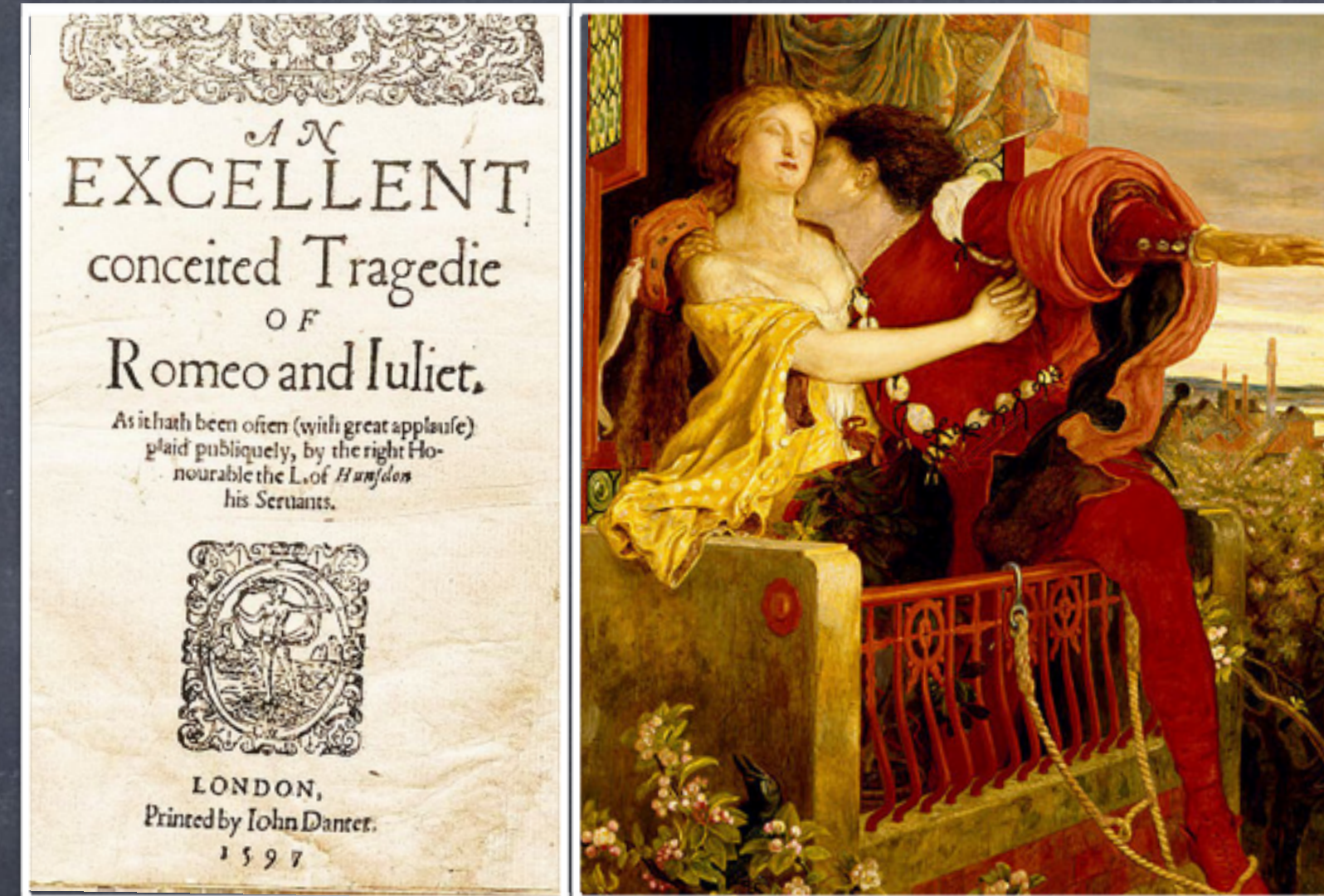
The well known story about two young star-crossed lovers whose deaths ultimately reconcile their feuding families. One of Shakespeare's most popular plays during his lifetime and, is one of his most frequently performed plays.

Today, the title characters are regarded as archetypal young lovers. It's probably the most famous in a long line of this kind of storied

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# ROMEO AND JULIET

## SELF SACRIFICE



archetype. The themes of love and sacrifice are common and popular.

“A glooming peace this morning with it brings; The sun, for sorrow, will not show his head: Go hence, to have more talk of these sad things; Some shall be pardon'd, and some punished: For never was a story of more woe Than this of Juliet and her Romeo.”



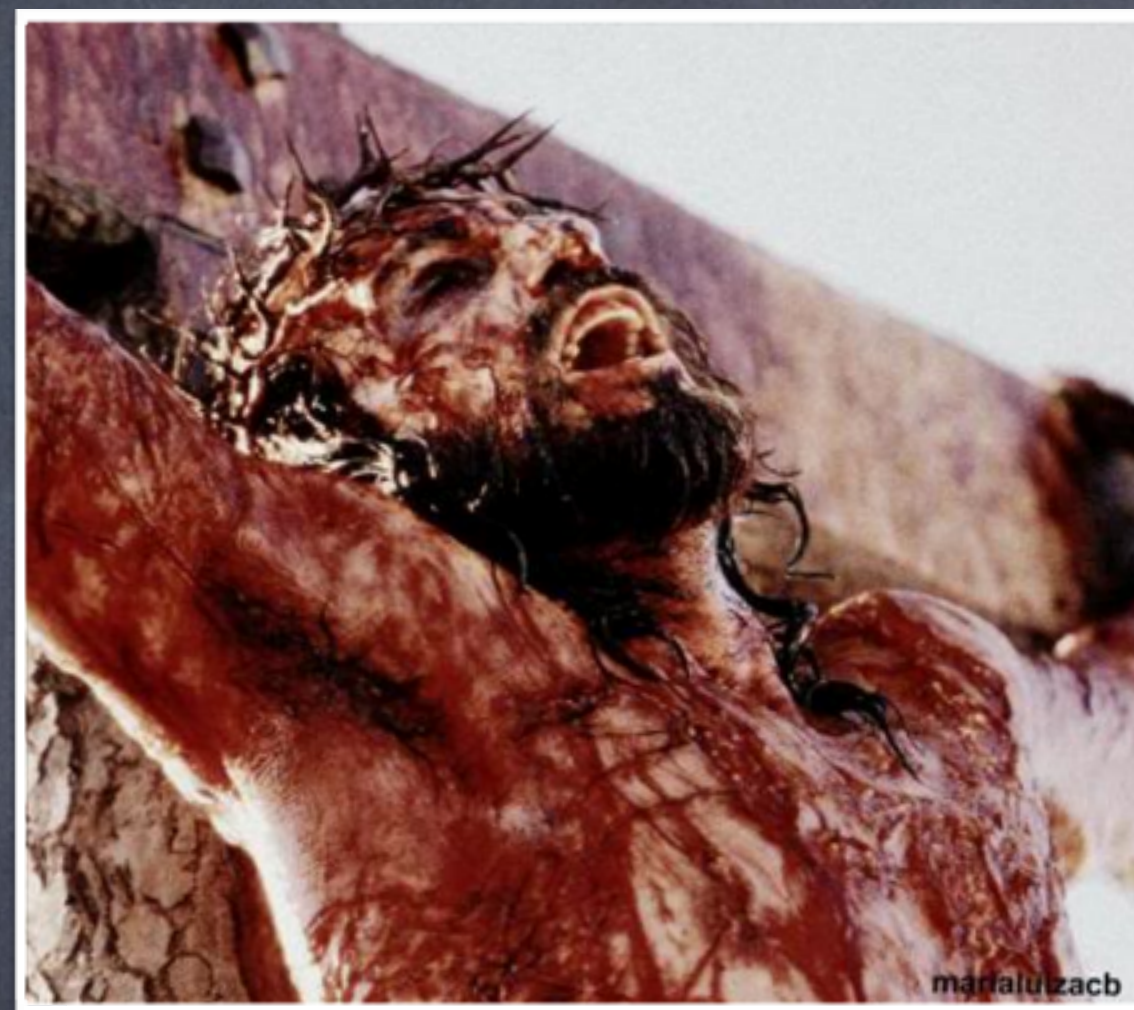
1 John 4:8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

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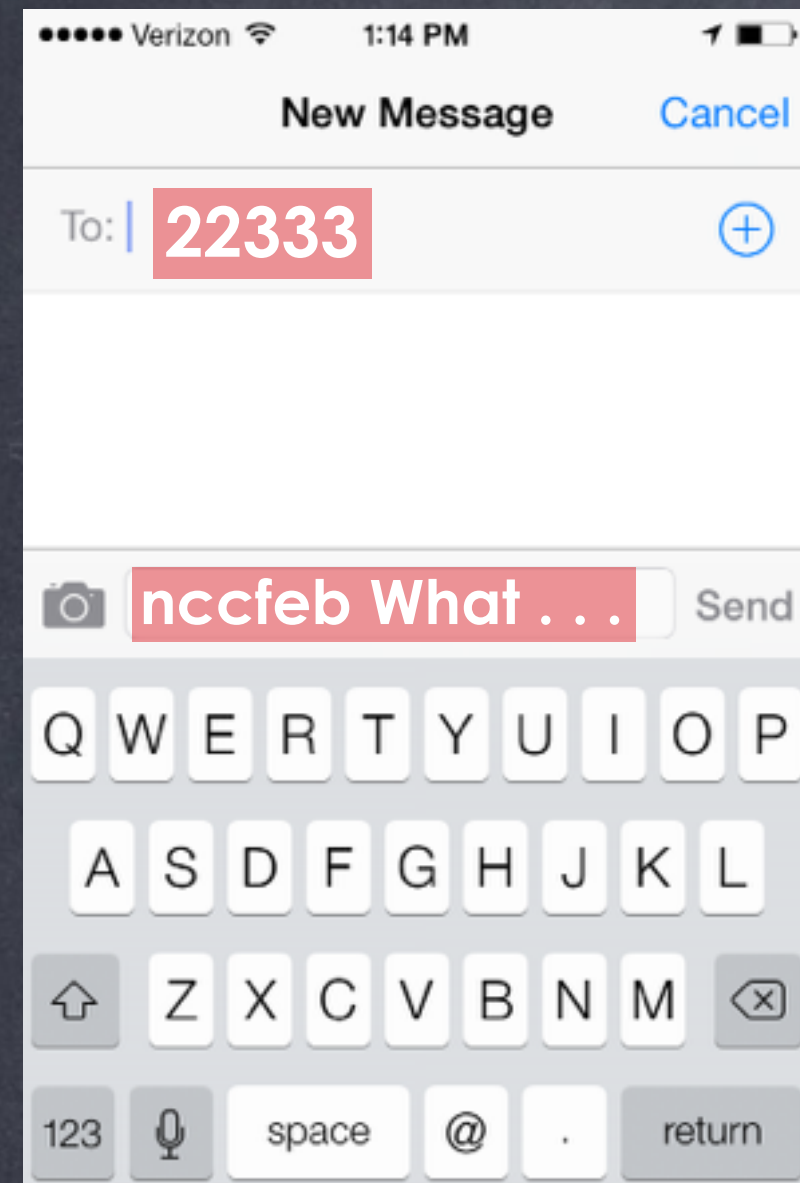
# JESUS CHRIST

## Substitutionary sacrifice



1 John 3:15 Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him. 16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.





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