

The Cost Of Love

February 22, 2026

1 Corinthians 13:1-8,13; Ephesians 5:25

“What’s Love Got To Do With It” Song Of The Year 1985

- I. A song that would speak for many**
 - A. Relationship with no emotional attachment
 - B. Relationships that have nothing to do with love
 - C. Love seen as nothing more than “a sweet old-fashioned notion”
 - D. For many that is how relationships & love were to be described
- II. The argument of failure (as marriage no longer seen as sacred)**
 - A. (On average) 2,000 divorces a day
 - B. The average marriage lasts only 8 years
 - C. Social scientists are questioning whether marriage is reasonable
 - D. Pew research discovered 40% believe marriage is obsolete
- III. The desire for unity & the desire for marriage**
 - A. Most people still have a desire to have a united relationship
 - B. A connection that is based on an everlasting love
 - C. A bonding, an attachment, a unity, a passion, an intimacy that is unique to anything else
 - D. A relationship that increases in love & for many brings children
- IV. God creates marriage to bless us with the great desire to know love & unity**
 - A. The condition of your marriage determines the level of happiness in your life
 - B. The condition of your marriage determines the level of success in your life
 - C. The condition of your marriage is the primary factor of the condition of your child's well being
- V. The power of living unified**
 - A. We want attachment
 - B. We want security/value
 - C. We want affection/appreciation
 - D. We want success
 - E. We want hope/happiness
- VI. God's warning to all**
 - A. The enemy wants to divide
 1. Divided Adam & Eve from God
 2. Divided Adam & Eve from each other
 - B. The enemy attacks the point of unity
 - C. A house divided cannot stand
 - D. Anything divided is defeated
 - E. But when there is unity, the children of God are unstoppable

VII. How is unity created?

- A. By choosing to love (love is a choice)
- B. Love guards & protects the other
 - 1. Spiritual health
 - 2. Emotional health
 - 3. Personal health
 - 4. Relational health
- C. Love will seek to reconcile, it sees the importance of unity & the danger of division

VIII. Love will pay the price for unity

- A. It will give up comfort
- B. It will give up convenience
- C. It will give up pride/ego
- D. It will give up time
- E. Love is not enabling or being a doormat
- F. Love breaks the cycle of
 - 1. Defensiveness
 - 2. Score keeping
 - 3. Power struggles

IX. How do you know if/when love is working?

- A. Security/confidence grows
- B. Control diminishes
- C. Cooperation increases
- D. Consideration becomes natural
- E. Communication is easier
- F. Suspicion fades
- G. Forgiveness is sought & given
- H. Love survives
 - 1. Disappointment
 - 2. Changes

- 3. Illness
- 4. Aging
- 5. Financial setbacks

X. Where does this love come from? Only from God

- A. Bible says nothing shall separate us from the love of God
- B. God's love is always
 - 1. Pursuing
 - 2. Gracious
 - 3. Redemptive
 - 4. Giving
 - 5. Forgiving
- C. Love stays present, not withdrawn
- D. It speaks truth without being cruel
- E. It saves completely all who believe

XI. Love in your salvation

- A. The cross proved to be greater than death
 - 1. At the cross, love was given
 - 2. Death was struck
 - 3. Love embraced
 - 4. Love endured
 - 5. Love rose from the dead
 - 6. Uniting us with eternal life

**Love That Unites Is Powerful
Love Unites Us Forever**