

Do you want to be remembered and
celebrated forever?

Living a life that lasts...
FOREVER

REPRODUCE

"The last action of an organism before it dies is to produce seeds" – Les Hershey, farmer

John 12:23-25

"...if it **dies**, it produces many seeds..."

"The man who loves his life will lose it,
while the man who hates his life in this
world **will keep it for eternal life.**"



How do you REPRODUCE?

FOCUS CLOSE

To **whom** would you say your last words?

FOCUS CLOSE

What would be your last words?

Bronnie Ware: Last words of the dying

One woman lived much of her career in the valley of the shadow of death. Bronnie Ware describes her experiences as follows: “For many years I worked in palliative care. **My patients were those who had gone home to die.** Some incredibly special times were shared. I was with them for the last three to twelve weeks of their lives. When questioned about any regrets they had or anything they would do differently, common themes surfaced again and again.”

Bronnie Ware: Regrets of the dying:

#1 - “I wish I had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me.”

“This was the most common regret of all. When people realise that their life is almost over and look back clearly on it, it is easy to see how many dreams have gone unfulfilled. Most people had not honored even a half of their dreams and had to die knowing that it was due to choices they had made, or not made.”

Bronnie Ware: Regrets of the dying

#2 - “I wish I hadn’t worked so hard.”

“This came from every male patient that I nursed. They **missed** their children’s youth and their partner’s companionship. Women also spoke of this regret. But as most were from an older generation, many of the female patients had not been breadwinners. All of the men I nursed **deeply regretted** spending so much of their lives on the treadmill of a work existence.”

Jesus' Last Words - John 13, 14, 15, 16, 17

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off (no more nourishment) every branch in me that bears no fruit, while **every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.** You are already clean (pruned) because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain (live) in me, as I also remain (live) in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. **Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.** John 15:1-7

I am the vine; you are the branches. **If you remain in me** and I in you, **you will bear much fruit**; apart from me you can do nothing (that will last). If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers (deadwood); such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned (no value). **If you remain** in me and my words remain in you, **ask** whatever you wish, **and it will be done** for you. This is to my Father's glory (how He lives a life that lasts), that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. John 15:5-8

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now **remain (live) in my love** (nourishment). If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. **I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.**

John 15:9-11

My command is this: **Love each other as I have loved you.** Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for **everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you** (reproducing). John 15:12-15

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you (receive everything you need to do everything I want you to do (2 Cor. 9:8)). This is my command: Love each other. John 15:16-17

Jesus' Last 24 Hours

“Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. **Having loved his own** who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love (**he continued to love them**).”

John 13:1 (NIV)

BETRAYAL

DENIAL

SCATTERED



He continued to LOVE them.

He continued to love them

Luke 22:32-34 - Jesus tells Peter “you will deny...when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers...”.

Matthew 26:32 - Jesus tells the disciples "This very night you will all fall away...but after I have risen, I will go ahead of you..."

There is an “after” after your mistakes!

You're going to fail.

Face it now or face it later.

Why face it?

Because facing our failures brings humility.

Humility is the broken ground out of which love can grow

Jesus' goal is reproduction. **Good soil is broken ground.**

Have you heard of well-known leaders whose reputation is destroyed when some deep dark dirty secret is revealed?

Jesus' calls his disciples to a surprising alternative.

Admit your failures. Be transparent about your weaknesses.

James 5:16 "Confess your sins...be healed."

When the secrets of our lives are revealed, what if they discover... unspoken acts of service, hidden gifts of generosity, and privately spoken words of love?

Jesus' Focus in His Last 24 Hours

Sunset - Intimate gathering with close friends

Garden - Desperate interaction with his Heavenly Father

Night - Betrayers (Judas), Accusers (Chief Priests and False Witnesses), Mockers (Herod and Soldiers), Crowd (crucify!) - Jesus ignored them - silent - As if he was thinking "My time is too short and my mission too important to enter into a conversation of folly with these fools"

Crucifixion - Thief asking for help, His mother and John's care for her.

Death - "Father..."

Jesus' focus in his last 24 hours was on those closest to him - not the crowds, not fame or fortune. **Jesus focused close.**

Living a Life that Lasts...FOREVER

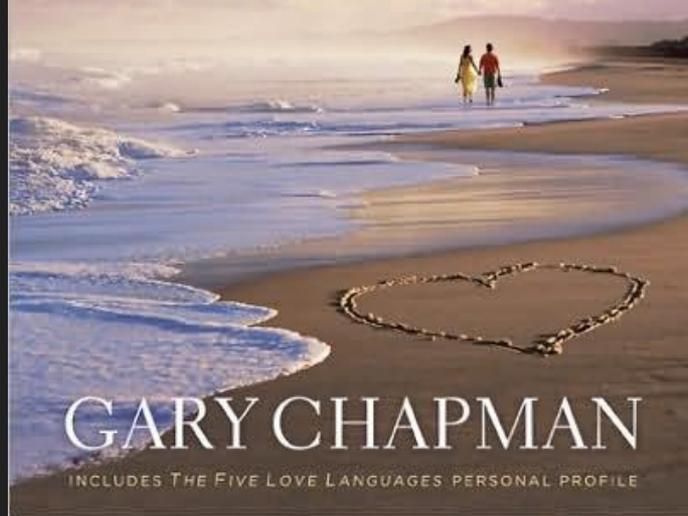
FOCUS CLOSE

“Love one another as I have loved you”

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

The 5 Love Languages™

The Secret to Love that Lasts



GARY CHAPMAN

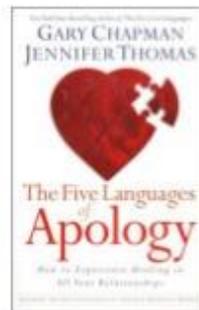
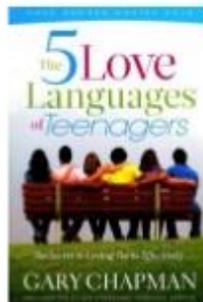
INCLUDES THE FIVE LOVE LANGUAGES PERSONAL PROFILE

Christ was a Master

- Christ was the master of love languages.
- He did:
 - Physical touch- think of the healing of the leper.
 - Gifts- He gave us treasures on earth and heaven. He gave us the Holy Spirit.
 - Acts of Service- He fed the multitudes and washed the feet of His disciples
 - Quality time- His Holy Spirit present with us.
 - Words of Affirmation-His Word

How to become multilingual

- You can learn to express all types of love languages
- Look out for what language others speak
- Then, do it!
- Think of the benefits- spouse, parents, children and even at work and in your service.



FOCUS CLOSE

“A willingness to be inconvenienced is the ultimate proof of love” - Ann Voskamp The Broken Way