

Love Is...
All you need.

Love, love, love
Love, love, love
Love, love, love
There's nothin' you can do that can't be done
Nothin' you can sing that can't be sung
Nothin' you can say, but you can learn how to play the game
It's easy
Nothin' you can make that can't be made
No one you can save that can't be saved
Nothin' you can do, but you can learn how to be you in time
It's easy
All you need is love...
Love is all you need
All you need is love...
Love is all you need
There's nothin' you can know that isn't known
Nothin' you can see that isn't shown
There's nowhere you can be that isn't where you're meant to be
It's easy
All you need is love...
Love is all you need
All you need is love (all together now)
All you need is love (everybody)
All you need is love, love
Love is all you need
Love is all you need (love is all you need)

"All You Need Is Love" is a song written by John Lennon and credited to Lennon-McCartney. It was first performed by the Beatles on Our World, the first live global television link.

We have a radio station out here, 100.3 – Only Classic Rock, this is a tremendous gift to those of us approaching our seventh decade of traveling around old Sol. When I hear songs like this, it reminds me of how my generation really tried to change the world, particularly our musical artists and the Beatles set the bar so high, I do not think it will ever be surpassed.

When I hear songs like this, I cannot help but see the hand of Scripture, whether done consciously or subconsciously by the artists. After all Our Master left us with two key commandments that sum up the law...

First, Love Him with your whole heart, you whole soul, everything that you are, and in doing so, you will find it much easier to follow the second commandment, love everyone else created in His Image and Likeness. Every single living human being.

We do not get to see many examples of us loving one another, at least in any story in any news. The media concentrates on what is wrong, the antithesis of love we do to each other, lowering ourselves in many cases to pure hatred. Hatred always leads to violence against one another. The media makes sure we see this violent hatred destroy life after life, sometimes in the tens of thousands, sometimes in the millions, often in the most graphic of pictures and descriptions. If a young child or teenager reads these stories I cannot imagine the impact. You read very little about people who demonstrate their love for one another, unless you read stories of the saints who often loved so much it cost them their lives.

(Over)

There is no greater good than to lay down one's life for a sister or brother, as all humans are our sisters and brothers.

While I seldom see anything in the news that demonstrates this still happens, in my daily life I witness dozens of times a day where people help each other.

Love does still exist.

I firmly believe that love indeed conquers all. Again, we start small, smiling at everyone we meet. Aiding an elderly couple struggling to get groceries in their car. My favorite is to make people, I have no idea who they are, laugh, usually with self-depreciating humor. Keeps you humble!

So, I wish for love. I pray for love. In my own home I demonstrate love every chance I get, whether it is simple saying many times during the day, 'I love you', to my family or anticipating acts of kindness at home, like doing odd chores so the other person does not.

One of the key components of love is gratitude. I do not know how many times a day I thank Him Who created us, sometimes for little things, sometimes for something very significant – like a biopsy that came back negative for cancer. I always thank Him, when I wake up and have a pulse (sometimes I even check because I am not sure) and when I feel the beat of my heart in my wrist, I thank Him again.

We've been through a hell of a year personally. Multiple health setbacks, a move that nearly wiped me out forever that I am still trying to get a handle on ten months later, surgeries, several cancer scares and often being relegated to the bed for too long a period because moving hurts. Yet, even in these moments, I thank Him, for teaching me through these tribulations, some of which have been near death experiences, and allowing me to see the gift that always comes when you get hit with a tough situation. Out of everything bad, He turns something out that is good and greater, and we learn. We learn to appreciate the new insights we've experienced and see His hand in helping us get through. We always learn something positive, a true gift of grace from Him Who loves more than anything one could possibly imagine. All we must do is step outside of ourselves and listen to that tiny whisper, like Elijah did. I call my neurological disorder one of the greatest gifts I've received. Amongst many things it taught me true patience and helped me deal with the reality that I can no longer do many of the activities I used to be able to do. He put a balm of grace on my frustration.

He saves us from ourselves as He has since the dawn of time, dramatically demonstrated when He took the weight and sin on His shoulders as one of us and died for us. Then He lived! He, showed us 'The Way.'

You witness many times folks that do not hear His whisper and wallow in the agony; feeling helpless, hopeless, lost and in despair fueled by anxiety. Many times this results in self destructive behavior whether it's a method like drinking yourself away or worse. This is where we must let His love shine through us, so that we can demonstrate the power of His love, and do whatever we can to help, even in the face of what appears to be hopeless. **That** help has endless forms if we listen to His guidance.

As Saint Theresa of Liseux said...

"Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our situation actions, or even at their difficulty, as at the love with which we do them."

Love Him. Love everyone. That is all it takes.

Clement