

*What is this thing  
called love?*

**“I would rather have  
questions  
that cannot be answered,  
than answers  
that cannot be questioned.”**

Richard Feynman - American theoretical physicist

“...have patience with everything unresolved in your heart and to try to love the questions themselves...

Don't search for the answers, which could not be given to you now, because you would not be able to live them.

...Live the questions now.

Perhaps then, someday far in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer.”

Rainer Maria Rilke, 1903

RMC Covenant Statement  
**References to Love**

**What do they say about our identity?**

**About who we are?**

**Who we are becoming?**

1. We hold Jesus' way and words to reveal God's direction for the church: unreserved love and sharing, honesty and mutual responsibility in relationships

- All out; no holding back  
sharing, honesty and responsible relationships?"

2. We will seek to encourage one another by positive expressions of love and forgiveness, to partake of the Lord's supper together, and to share responsibility in receiving and giving correction according to the teachings of scripture.

- Uplift and inspire one another -  
positive expressions of love - and forgiveness

3. We recognize in Jesus Christ the way of love and reconciliation and affirm that this is God's will for all believers.

- Keep an eye on Jesus

Stay on the path Jesus walked.

“Tagging along after Jesus”

4. We recognize that each person is created in the image of God and we will seek equity, justice, freedom and human rights for all peoples. By the fellowship of love which bridges economic, racial, sexual, political, and cultural differences, we will demonstrate the oneness of the body of Christ with the diversity of its parts.

- Actively try to see and understand all that divides us (things inside us and things in the cultural waters in which we swim) - and vigorously burrow through walls and build bridges.



5. We seek to grow spiritually through times of personal encounter with God, opening ourselves to God's love and truth by means of prayer, reflection, meditation on scripture and fasting.

- Adopting a life-style and expectation of seeking God's face; seeking God's voice, God's Light

6. We commit ourselves to share the love and faith of Christ,

- Don't hide our desire for God's love. Let other's know what we seek. And share the hints and signs of that mysterious love when we catch glimpses of it; when we know that God is actively coming near. When we experience Psalm 23:6 let it be known.

Psalm 23:6

God's beauty and love chase after me every day of my life.

## The Heart of It All

by Kayla McClurg via Inward/Outward  
For Sunday, May 8, 2016 – John 17:20-26

Jesus longs to plant deeply within all who will listen the central truth of his life—that at the heart of it all is love. The love of God has poured prodigally into Jesus, causing the love of Jesus to pour into his friends so that the love of his friends will pour lavishly into the world, until generations later here we are, learning to receive and give from that same bottomless well of love. God’s glory, Jesus says, has been given to him, and whatever comes to him flows through him, to us. What is this glory river that flows to us and then through us? It is the awareness that we are one—one with God, one with each other—and loved so bountifully that we can do no less than respond to all of God’s creation in love. What a simple way, this way of love!

Except when it is not. The easy flow of receiving and giving love becomes blocked with jealousy, anger, selfish motives. We do not see ourselves as one; we become alienated from each other, lost. Some call this the evidence of our functional atheism. We disconnect our believing from our living. We might **say** intentionally chosen words, trying to **sound** pleasing to God and others, but we do not embody these words in an intentional way of life. Jesus challenges our lofty concepts about love, our fantasies about how remarkable our love could be, and sets us on the path of action. What matters is love’s practical implementation day by day.

If we are going to have the full experience of God’s way of love, we will start by being more at ease with being one. We will seek to love others as ourselves, knowing that ***what happens to one happens to all*** and to ignore suffering is to ignore our own. When will we wake up to each other and stop excluding whomever we please? Regardless of birth nation, gender identification, political affiliation, degree of education, sexual orientation, being an aggravation, craving adulation, believing, or not believing, in transubstantiation — we are, ***the whole lot of us***, God’s absolute favorites. We are amazingly broken and beloved beings, and like it or not, we are in the little boat of this life together. Whether resting in or resisting this truth, we are right where God intends for us to be—at the heart of it all, where we are **one**.

# When Death Comes

by Mary Oliver

When it's over, I want to say: all my life  
I was a bride married to amazement.  
I was the bridegroom, taking the world into my arms.

When it is over, I don't want to wonder  
if I have made of my life something particular, and real.  
I don't want to find myself sighing and frightened,  
or full of argument.

I don't want to end up simply having visited this world.