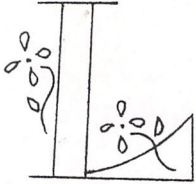


Excerpt from Our Passion For Justice
by **Carter Heyward**
on *LOVE*



Love, like truth and beauty, is concrete. Love is not fundamentally a sweet feeling, not at heart a matter of sentiment, attachment, or being "drawn toward"! Love is active, effective, a matter of making reciprocal and mutually beneficial relations with one's friends and enemies.

Love creates righteousness or justice, here on earth. TO MAKE LOVE IS TO MAKE JUSTICE. As advocates and activists for justice know, loving involves struggle, resistance, risk. People working today on behalf of women, blacks, lesbians and gay men, the aging, the poor in this country and elsewhere that making justice is not a warm fuzzy experience. I think also that sexual lovers and good friends know that the most compelling relationships demand hard work, patience, and a willingness to endure tensions and anxiety in creating mutually empowering bonds.

For this reason LOVE INVOLVES COMMITMENT! We are not automatic lovers of self, others, world or God. LOVE DOES NOT JUST HAPPEN! We are not love machines, puppets on strings of a deity called "Love". LOVE IS A CHOICE NOT SIMPLY OR NECESSARILY A RATIONAL CHOICE, BUT RATHER A WILLINGNESS TO BE PRESENT TO OTHERS WITHOUT PRETENSE OR GUILF.

Love is a conversion to humanity - A willingness to participate with others in the healing of a broken world and broken lives.

LOVE IS THE CHOICE TO EXPERIENCE LIFE AS A MEMBER OF THE HUMAN FAMILY, A PARTNER IN THE DANCE OF LIFE, RATHER THAN AS AN ALIEN IN THE WORLD, OR AS A DEITY ABOVE THE WORLD, ALOOF AND APART FROM HUMAN FLESH.