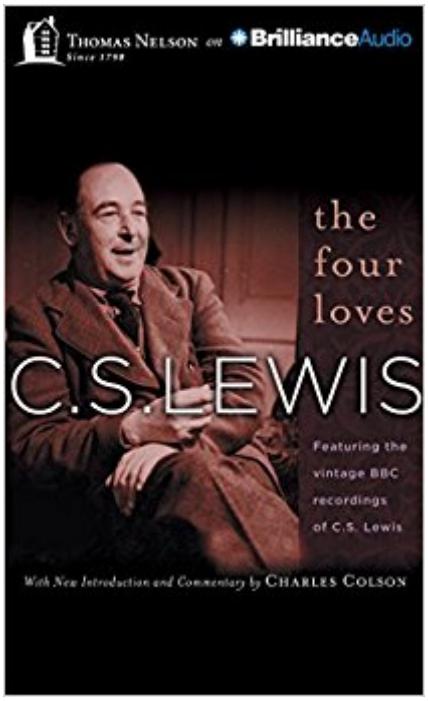
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The Four Loves: Featuring The Vintage BBC Recordings Of C.S. Lewis



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Synopsis

In his classic book The Four Loves, Lewis describes the four basic kinds of human loveÃ¢â ¬â •affection, friendship, erotic love, and the love of God. Since this is the only commercial recording of C. S. Lewis that is available today, fans of his writing will desire to add this impressive recording to their collection.While Lewis's writings have impacted more evangelical Christians than perhaps any other writer, this audio product of the author's reading of this classic book will undoubtedly expand the theological understanding of the nature of love to a much wider audience. He explores the love between parents and children, the love of friends, the love of men and women for each other, and the love of God that may enrich all love. He also goes in-depth into questions of sex, possessiveness, jealousy, pride, false sentimentality, manners in loving, and the need for more laughter between lovers.Lewis's wise and candid reflections on the virtues and dangers of love draw on sources from Jane Austen to Saint Augustine.This recording features an audio introduction and commentary by Chuck Colson.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Four Loves summarizes four kinds of human love--affection, friendship, erotic love, and the love of God. Masterful without being magisterial, this book's wise, gentle, candid reflections on the virtues and dangers of love draw on sources from Jane Austen to St. Augustine. The chapter on charity (love of God) may be the best thing Lewis ever wrote about Christianity. Consider his reflection on Augustine's teaching that one must love only God, because only God is eternal, and all earthly love will someday pass away: Who could conceivably begin to love God on such a

prudential ground--because the security (so to speak) is better? Who could even include it among the grounds for loving? Would you choose a wife or a Friend--if it comes to that, would you choose a dog--in this spirit? One must be outside the world of love, of all loves, before one thus calculates. His description of Christianity here is no less forceful and opinionated than in Mere Christianity or The Problem of Pain, but it is far less anxious about its reader's response--and therefore more persuasive than any of his apologetics. When he begins to describe the nature of faith, Lewis writes: "Take it as one man's reverie, almost one man's myth. If anything in it is useful to you, use it; if anything is not, never give it a second thought." --Michael Joseph Gross --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"A rare and memorable book." Ã¢â ¬â •Saturday Review

A wonderful book written late in C. S. Lewis's career, and so reflects a greater sort of wisdom. As usual, he covers all the peripheral issues first, and seemingly in parallel, yet by the end of the book he ties all the elements together in a powerful essay. This is his reflection on love, both natural (as in coming from man's nature) and divine (coming directly from God), and in this way the book is timeless. There are, however, a few points dealing with friendly relationships between the sexes that may seem dated -- they are thoughtful and astute, but they are mostly reflective of a time in England when men and women rarely worked side by side. Yet, even here, Lewis is aware of the transitory nature of these conditions, and mentions that if these situations changed then the nature of the friendly interactions would also change. His general observations remained true regardless. This essay is not as easy to read as "Mere Christianity", but with patience I would think almost anyone who persevered to the conclusion should be able to understand and gain from it. It is very highly recommended.

In this classic C.S. Lewis, the celebrated author of 'the Chronicles of Narnia,' reflects on love. He begins by observing that at birth we all start out with need-love, needing gift-love. Gift-love is the kind of love the creator shows to the created, in the process of creating and taking care of the created. It is the love a mother bestows on her newborn child. In contrast, need-love is the condition of poverty that every created being begins with at birth. I feel this quote sums up the point Mr. Lewis was making about need-love, 'Man approaches god most nearly when he is in one sense least like God. For what can be more unlike than fullness and need, sovereignty and humility, righteousness and penitence.'Mr. Lewis continues with a brief synopsis of things that we can show love for; these

include others, nature, country, and finally, the transcendent creator. Dissecting each, he illustrates that love of nature, patriotism, etc. are inadequate receptacles of our love.Next, Mr. Lewis looks at the different kinds of love which include affection, philios, eros, and charity or agape. Affection includes the love of parents for their child, love of our pets, etc. Philios is the love between friends. Eros is the love between two lovers. Finally, charity is the love of the creator towards the created and the return of that love by the created toward both the creator and creation.Of all the loves, Mr. Lewis holds charity or agape in the highest esteem. All other loves fall short of Agape, as Mr. Lewis states in this quote, 'The (other) loves prove that they are unworthy to take the place of god by the fact that they cannot even remain themselves and do what they promise to do without god's help.' They are merely images of this 'charity or agape' which is both immanent and transcendent of creation. By placing our faith in images we are placing faith in what is transient and temporary. Yet, the love that is immanent and transcendent of creation is all encompassing, therefore imageless, and thus beyond human conceptual understanding..To understand love in all of its aspects we need both the images of affection, philios, and eros as well as the transcendent for the images are stepping stones on our way up to this feeling of all encompassing love. Here, Mr. Lewis makes an important point about love when he states, 'To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. We shall draw nearer to God, not by trying to avoid the sufferings inherent in all loves, but by accepting them and offering them to him; throwing away all defensive armour.'We have to feel love for the images in order to understand and feel the love of the transcendent. Yet, we cannot become entranced by our love for the images of the love immanent and transcendent of creation, because they like we are merely temporary, here one day, gone the next..Mr. Lewis concludes with this point, 'Only those into which love himself has entered will ascend to love himself. We were made for god. Only by being in some respect like him, only by being a manifestation of his beauty, loving-kindness, wisdom or goodness, has any earthly beloved excited our love.'Most of the time when we think about love we think about it in its aspect of eros. Mr. Lewis compelled me to contemplate love in all of its different manifestations, and through this reflection, to see that love is much more complex than what we frequently assume it to be. It is for these reasons that I consider this a classic read worth pondering.

I literally put a quote from this book on my arm, that's how much I believe in it. CS Lewis's ability to transcribe love as a core human emotion is elegant, his grasp of Christian theology, ethics, and even aestheticism makes this book well worth the read.

C.S. Lewis brings theology, philosophy and plain old homespun wisdom alive in this profound book on the 4 loves. Beginning with an introduction to love and the purpose of love, Lewis then takes the reader on an expose on the four loves of:*Affection*Friendship*Eros*CharityThe entire book is not only profound in basis and thought, but Lewis brings a sense of humor and levity to what could be (and sometimes is in the book) a very weighty subject. Writing from a Christian perspective, Lewis ends up tying all love back to divinity through comparison and contrasting.A great book. Well worth the few hours it will take to get through for the first time. It may end up a treasured part of your collection.

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