



## The Break Up

WARNING: DON'T READ THIS IF YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW HOW THE MOVIE ENDS!

So, does true love conquer all? Last night I went to see Jennifer Anniston and Vince Vaughn's new film 'The Break Up' and this is the question I am left with. I thought that the film was great! Yep, it was me laughing ridiculously loudly in the first few scenes where we saw Vince Vaughn's character, Gary romancing Jennifer Anniston's character Brook at a baseball game. And it was also my laugh that you heard every time Gary met up with his best friend Johnny played by the ever funny Jon Favreau.

But hands up if you thought that boys got a bit of a bad press throughout the film? All the

problems in the relationship that led to 'the break up' seemed to be Gary's fault! This caused me to laugh even harder when, my poor boyfriend, who I had persuaded to come with me to see this 'chick flick', lent over and said 'am I as bad as he is???' and 'I will try harder in our relationship, I promise!'

As funny as the film was the ending left a lot of people feeling cheated. The cinema was packed and there was an audible 'WHAT?' as the characters went their separate ways. We had spent the whole film rooting for the two to get back together and this is what Brook led us to believe that she wanted and when she eventually helped Gary to see that this was also what he wanted she decided that this wasn't what she wanted after all!

You following?! Basically true love didn't win out....

And this seems to be a trend in a lot of films I have seen recently. Uma Thurman's 'Prime' and even, to some extent 'Superman Returns' have similar themes. Relationships are shown to be something to enter into, learn about yourself and take that with you as you leave...

This sort of attitude is completely contrary to the traditional 'love story' that we are so used to seeing on the big screen. We are used to seeing a couple get together, fall in love, have their problems, work at their relationship and live happily ever after! But now we see boy meets girl, falling in love, couple have problems, couple work at relationship, couple realize they deserve more, couple move on.

Now, don't get me wrong, I understand that we have to move on in relationships sometimes, I have been there myself... what I am finding interesting is this new attitude at the movies where this is happening more and more... true love is no longer winning. And being an old romantic at heart I guess I find this quite disappointing.

But then what is true love and what are relationships all about? With my boyfriend and I getting married in March I am kind of hoping that we have some sort of idea! And I guess our model for



relationship is one that God gives us Himself in the form of the Trinity. God exists equally and lovingly with Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Their relationship is SO perfect, SO equal, SO consuming that they exist as ONE PERSON! God created us in His image and this is why we have a desire to be in relationship whether romantic or friendship, because He exists permanently in relationship!

But this doesn't answer my question 'does true love conquer all?' In Jesus we have the answer. God loves us so much that he didn't want to see us in pain, hurting ourselves and each other. So He sent Jesus to show us how

much He loves us. Jesus died so that all that hurt and pain can be taken from us. Out of love for us He went through the pain and suffering. And he died.

Now I believe that Jesus is God and some people describe God as Love and so it could be said that when Jesus died so did love. And I also believe that Jesus is perfect and so the love that He felt was perfect love or true love. So it could also be said that true love died on the cross when Jesus did. If this is true this is good news for us... Jesus' death on the cross was not the end of the story. He beat death; Jesus conquered death and on that

third day true love wins. Jesus shows us that He can over come anything and on that day true love conquered all.

So where does this leave me as I feel all disappointed at the end of my night at the cinema? It leaves me with a hope. I found the film side splittingly funny and very entertaining but it doesn't have to be my reality. I don't need to measure true love against that of Gary and Brooks relationship. I have the example of true love in Jesus. There has never been a more perfect example. The ultimate example of true love conquering all....