

A Better Way to Communicate Love

If we made contact with beings from another part of the universe, what would you want to communicate about who we are?

If popular culture has its way, we would have a gecko telling how twenty minutes could save them money on their spacecraft insurance.

For the record, I don't think there is life out there—at least not the way sci-fi movies tell us. The point of this blog is not to argue the probability of alien life forms (beyond the ones we know exist in Hollywood). Instead, I'm intrigued with the hypothetical idea of what we would tell them about ourselves

I'm not the first to ponder this. On September 5, 1977, NASA launched Voyager 1. The purpose of this space probe was to, well, probe space. It was to provide information about our furthest planets—except Pluto. (Even 40+ years ago, Pluto got the old shoulder).

But what if Voyager met up with some aliens out in the great beyond cruising with their own space probe, looking to join everyone else moving to America, or hoping to find a clean rest area after a trek across the galaxy with alien kids screaming in the back seat?
What if?

Enter Carl Sagan. NASA asked Sagan to come up with some way to communicate ... just in case. Sagan pulled a team together and they came up with a play list for a gold record. No, not the kind of gold record they give to Lady Gaga. This was a real gold record. (A copper record plated with gold would last millions of years.)

The 90-minute record includes historical, geographical, and cultural information about earth. It includes greetings in a wide variety of languages. It includes a quick sampling of music from all over the world.

They used a variety of ways to communicate: Images, sounds, diagrams. But they also chose a brain scan of someone *thinking* about all this history, culture, and geography. They were going to use a brain scan from Ann Druyan, one of the team members, to communicate the information. (I'd say it would take a

highly advanced alien life form to truly understand what a woman is thinking, but I'm too classy to say that.)

But Ann sneaked one past the team. She was in love—with Carl Sagan no less!—and she decided to focus on love during the brain scan. What better way to communicate what drives humanity than to focus on love?

Here we are 41 years later, and Voyager is still out there doing its thing. And that brain scan with a message of love is still waiting to be discovered.

Let's turn back to humans. What would you communicate to humanity?

God communicated love to us.

- He created us in love.
- After we sinned, He still loves us.

We know all this because, in His love, He revealed Himself through the written Word of God. It's not a hidden message. The Bible does not require special learning or an advanced degree to understand. God *wants* us to know Him., and He has clearly communicated to us through His Word.

But it doesn't stop there. God didn't send a brain scan. He sent Himself. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, so that we would see what love looks like. So that we could know Him.

- "No one has ever seen God. The one and only Son, who is himself God and is at the Father's side—he has revealed him" (John 1:18).
- Jesus said, "As the Father has loved me, I have also loved you. Remain in my love" (John 15:9).
- "But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8).

Voyager's message is still out there, and Ann Druyan hopes someone someday will find her message of love.

God's message of love has already been delivered.