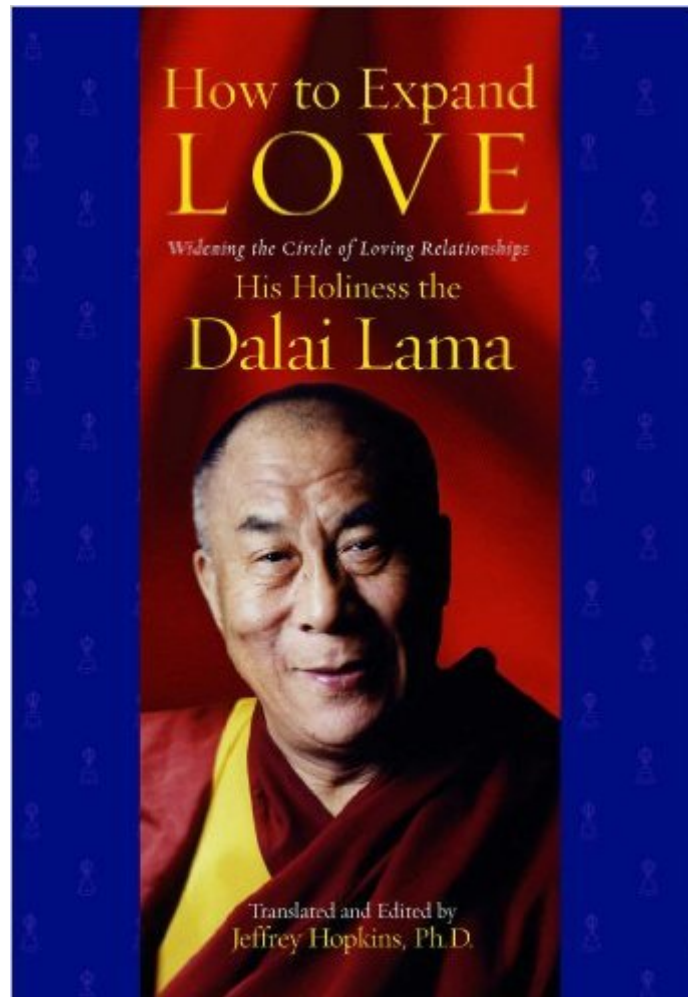


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# How To Expand Love: Widening The Circle Of Loving Relationships



## Synopsis

Love and compassion are beneficial both for you and for others. Through your kindness toward others, your mind and heart will open to peace. Expanding peace to the larger community around you will bring unity, harmony, and cooperation. Expanding peace further still to nations and then to the world will bring mutual trust, mutual respect, sincere communication, and finally successful joint efforts to solve the world's problems. All this is possible once you learn **HOW TO EXPAND LOVE**

With this illuminating and instructive handbook, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, offers sensible, everyday guidelines for transforming self-centered energy into outwardly directed compassion. Drawing on exercises and techniques established in Tibetan monasteries more than a thousand years ago, the Dalai Lama describes a seven-step, self-directed program to help us open our hearts and minds to the experience of unlimited love, transforming every relationship in our lives -- and guiding us ever closer to wisdom and enlightenment.

## Book Information

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Atria Books; Reprint edition (August 8, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0743269691

ISBN-13: 978-0743269698

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.6 x 7.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (22 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #598,049 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #98 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Eastern > Buddhism > Dalai Lama #3850 inÂ Books > Religion & Spirituality > Worship & Devotion > Inspirational

## Customer Reviews

"When I speak about love and compassion, I do so not as a Buddhist, or as a Tibetan, nor as the Dalai Lama. I do so as one human being speaking with another". With these words, the Dalai Lama opens his recent guide to expanding one's circle of loving relationships through the practice of love and compassion. This book is simply and eloquently written, and its teachings are wise. The Dalai Lama points out that human beings are essentially alike when superficial differences are peeled away. In addition, all religions are essentially alike to the extent they teach love, kindness, and peace and "a desire to help their fellow beings." (p.4) The Dalai Lama presents a way of

understanding these insights and a means of bringing them into focus in one's life through the practice of lovingkindness. Some of the teachings in this book make use of specifically Buddhist beliefs such as the doctrine of rebirth. But the practices and principles of this book can be used with benefit regardless of whether the reader accepts or doesn't accept rebirth or other specifically Buddhist doctrines. The Dalai Lama sets forth a process of reflective understanding and meditation in first understanding the nature of love and then learning to practice it. It is an inner-directed teaching in that it looks to the self and to self-understanding rather than to externals -- to things beyond one's control such as wealth or power or to success -- as the key to happiness. Thus, the first part of the Dalai Lama's teaching in this book is directed to an understanding of the basic purity of the human mind. Because the mind is pure, it is possible, for the Dalai Lama, to remove defilements such as hatred, lust, and ignorance. The radiant, empty character of the mind also links all human beings together in terms of establishing a commonality and an ability to love and be loved. It teaches that people ought not to be categorized in that beyond the defilements that plague all of us, we are essentially human with the need to be loved and to be free from suffering. This teaching of the pure, radiant mind ("Buddha nature") possessed by all is the most fundamental and difficult teaching in this book. The Dalai Lama then presents a series of seven steps to increase one's ability to feel love and compassion for an ever-growing class of people and sentient beings. The process is presented in gradually expanding steps, and the reader can follow the path as it develops. Each step is accompanied by teachings and by suggested meditation practices. these seven steps are 1. creating a positive attitude towards others; 2. recognizing the kindnesses each of us has received; 3. reciprocating the kindness of others; 4. learning to love others (including learning the difference between disinterested love and love based upon attachment, such as physical or sensual desire or upon the receipt of benefits from those close to us); 5. practicing compassion, the desire to have others free from suffering; 6 becoming committed to altruism -- to training one's mind to and working for the welfare of others; and 7. realizing enlightenment in terms of being devoted to the welfare of others. The teachings in this book are in part guides that everyone can use regardless of his or her religious beliefs, and in part a simple exposition of the bodhisattva path of Mahayana Buddhism. The Dalai Lama makes frequent reference to ancient Indian and Tibetan sources, including the Tibetan "Stages on the Path to Enlightenment" (pp 7-8), and the teachings of the great Indian sage, Nagarjuna (pp. 190 -- 197). Each chapter of the book is headed by a short quotation from a Buddhist source that the Dalai Lama amplifies in the teachings that follow. This book is short and a pleasure to read, but there is no suggestion that the teachings are easy. Work on the mind and on learning to love is a project of years and lives. The Dalai Lama has

written an inspiring guide to learning to love. Robin Friedman

I am not a Buddhist but this book is definitely one of the finest books when one is searching for spiritual wisdom and life's guiding light. No, it is certainly not a religious book and meditations can be practiced outside of Buddhism. *How to Expand Love* by Jeffrey Hopkins (from the teaching of Dalai Lama) truly spells out the map/road to see higher consciousness of human beings. The most amazing thing about this book is that it can be perfectly appropriate for someone who just started opening themselves to learn about love and compassion. It can also be a book for someone who has some foundation of spirituality to learn more. It helps ones who want to further expand their heart to give and to receive love and compassion. The meditations practices described in the book is so easy to follow but it takes commitment. It can be a book you speed read once to get the feel of what it is like. But certainly if one wants to use this book as a primary tool in expanding love and compassion, one need to periodically go back and read certain chapters, using certain chapters as the central meditation practice. Every time I pick up this book to read a chapter, I can just feel my heart is heated and warm, ready to channel love and compassion to friends, family, strangers and people who I sometimes get annoyed and upset. I am sure after re-reading the texts of this book a couple times, his words would just be another spiritual gateway for others learn about compassion. It is another book to experience, another book for one to taste and to understand. Don't get frustrated when you cannot become the master of love and compassion after one reading. But make a commitment to ourselves we will activate our higher consciousness and awareness of our doings. We will do the very best we can to master love and compassion for human beings and for the nature.

If you are interested in learning from a man, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, who is the embodiment of inner peace, so that you can feel inner peace in your own life, than "*How To Expand Love*" will clearly and beautifully bring you answers no matter what path you may be on. There are so many people in pain, attacking others, when they do not know how to recognize the love and goodness they are within. This book will help you to see and expand all of the good that you are, and then you can make a positive inner shift, where inner peace dwells, so that you feel inner peace in your life. You do not have to have any religious or spiritual leanings to learn from this beautiful book. All you need is a mind and heart that really wants to feel the inner peace you may have been searching for. It's a beautiful book with messages that will only uplift you and your life as this is what you deserve. Barbara Rose, author of *Stop Being the String Along: A Relationship Guide to Being THE*

Spiritual wisdom of the heart whose root is compassion. The Dalai Lama is so generous in sharing his thought process on why an expansion of love is valuable to everyone. Love heals in a way nothing else can. It is the force that turned around a Jewish zealot who arrested Christians from Saul to Disciple Paul on the road to Damascus, turned a tax collector into a Apostle, and conquered the once pagan Roman Empire into the Holy Sea. Buddhism has grown into popularity in the West as its approach to love concentrates on compassion to such a high extent that there can only be love left in its wake. A brilliant illumination on the nature of love. This book is for Buddhists and non-Buddhists. We are affected by the thoughts we expose ourselves to, in whatever media they appear, do your dharma and karma a universe of good .... and open your heart and head to the Dalai Lama's teachings on expanding love.

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