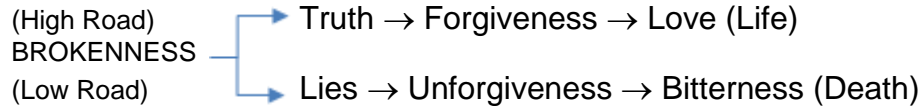




“LOVE” 1Cor.13:1-13



Our love for God and others will increase in direct proportion to our experience of God's love for us. No pleasure on earth compares to knowing and experiencing God's boundless and captivating love through Christ. Ps.63:3

TRUE LOVE IS... (Eph.3:16-19)

DEEP – Never Stuck-up. vv1-3

- Don't confuse gifts with fruit. 1Cor.12:4-11; Gal.5:22-23
- Fear and pride restrain the will but only love transforms the heart. 2Cor.5:14-15
- Counterfeit love is (selfish affection) helping others only because it profits you.
- True love is the overflow of love from God that gladly meets the needs of others.

HIGH – Wanting to Grow up. vv4-6

- Immaturity is self-seeking (self-centered/glory hungry). Phil2:3; Gal5:26 "Conceit"
- We are self-seeking because we delight in evil rather than rejoice in the truth. Jer.2:13; Ex.20:3; Rom.1:25
- Self-seeking is the cause of impatience, unkindness, envy, boasting, pride, rudeness, easily angered, keeping records of wrong (unforgiving).

LONG – Never gives up. vv7-8

- True love covers a multitude of sins and gives the benefit of the doubt. Pro.10:12; 1Pet.4:8

- True love delights in the person and not in what you get from the person.
- "True love is never stopping, never giving up, unbreaking, always and forever love." –SLJ 2Cor.1:24

WIDE – Always looking up. vv9-13; 1Jn.3:1-2

- Heaven is a world of love. vv10, 12, 13
- God knows me to the bottom and loves me to the sky. v12; Ps.103:11; 1Jn.4:18
- Love shatters us, captures us and then empowers us.

Growing Notes

- 1) Our love for God and others will increase in direct proportion to our experience of God's love for us. Explain. No pleasure on earth compares to knowing and experiencing God's boundless and captivating love through Christ. What would it look like if a person lived in the reality of that love (Ps.63:3)?
- 2) Read 1Cor.13:1-13. What does it mean that True Love is DEEP (vv1-3)? What is the difference between charisma (gifts) and character (fruit)? What is counterfeit love vs. true love?
- 3) What does it mean that True Love is HIGH (vv4-6)? What does it mean to be self-seeking and why are we self-seeking? What does self-seeking produce in our relationships?
- 4) What does it mean that True Love is LONG (vv7-8)? True love covers a multitude of sins and gives the benefit of the doubt. Explain. What is the difference between consumer love and covenant love?
- 5) What does it mean that True Love is WIDE (vv9-13)? How does an eternal perspective of love help us in this temporal world (1Jn.3:1-3)? What does it mean that God knows you to the bottom and loves you to the sky? Pray that God's love will shatter us, capture us and then empower us.