



## REAL RELATIONSHIPS – A Love That Lasts

### LOVE COMES FROM GOD

**1 John 4:7-9 (NIV)** *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.*

#### Four needs that can only be met through God's love:

- **Acceptance:** God's love is limitless. Nothing can separate you from it—Romans 8.
- **Identity:** The one who created you is the only one who can tell you who you are—Psalm 139.
- **Security:** The only security in this life is from God—Psalm 91.
- **Purpose:** Philippians 2:13—God knows you and designed you to accomplish his purpose.

If we don't trust Jesus to meet these needs, we will transfer them to people around us!

### LOVE NEVER FAILS

**1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NIV)** *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails.*

Love is living for another person's good.



- Love is giving yourself for the good of another, even at great personal cost.
- The opposite of love is not hate. It's selfishness!
- Lust is taking for yourself what you want from others regardless of the cost.
- Love is unlocking the potential in your spouse.

### LOVE PAINTS A PICTURE

**Ephesians 5:21-28** *Out of respect for Christ, be courteously reverent to one another. 22-24 Wives, understand and support your husbands in ways that show your support for Christ. The husband provides leadership to his wife the way Christ does to his church, not by domineering but by cherishing. So just as the church submits to Christ as he exercises such leadership, wives should likewise submit to their husbands. 25-28 Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church—a love marked by giving, not getting. Christ's love makes the church whole. His words evoke her beauty. Everything he does and says is designed to bring the best out of her, dressing her in dazzling white silk, radiant with holiness. And that is how husbands ought to love their wives. They're really doing themselves a favor—since they're already "one" in marriage.*

#### Parsley Principles for Marriage:

- Do the right thing, regardless of what your spouse does to you!  
**Romans 12:21 (NIV)** *"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."*
- Be kind, even when you're angry, frustrated, or fighting.  
**Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)** *Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*
- Keep the main things, the main thing.  
**Galatians 5:6 (NIV)** *The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.*
- Repent quickly and forgive always.  
**Ephesians 4:26-27 (NIV)** *Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold.*