





No **IMITATION** OR **FALSE** LOVE!

- NOT the world's counterfeits
 - Lust, perversions, and depraved forms of "love."
- NOT based on things that are temporary, deceptive, or sinful ...
 - √ "Warm feelings."
 - ✓ Emotional impulses.
 - ✓ Passionate desires.
 - ✓ Distorted definitions of "love."
 - ✓ Anything else the <u>world</u> uses as a basis for its false "love."



A TYPE OF LOVE THAT GOES **BEYOND** WHAT IS NATURAL!

- GREATER than other legitimate types of love that may occur between friends or family members.
 - ✓ Love between friends.
 - ✓ Family love.
 - ✓ The love of a husband and wife.

These are good and should be encouraged; but our focus is on something even *greater!*

"COMMITMENT LOVE," THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF ALL KINDS! A love that... Gives meaning and value to all other legitimate types of love. Exposes the horribleness of distorted, fake "love," as well as all "non-love."

THE BEAUTY OF "COMMITMENT LOVE"!

✓ It's a reflection of God's own love toward us.

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

1 John 4:10 (NIV)

We love, because He first loved us.

1 John 4:19 (NASB)

THE BEAUTY OF "COMMITMENT LOVE"!

√ It remains, regardless of the response of others.

Love never comes to an end.

1 Cor. 13:8a (GW)

So these three things remain: faith, hope, and love. But the best one of these is love.

1 Cor. 13:13 (GW)

THE BEAUTY OF "COMMITMENT LOVE"!

✓ It strives for the good of others ... -

Love is patient. Love is kind. Love isn't jealous. It doesn't sing its own praises. It isn't arrogant. It isn't rude. It doesn't think about itself. It isn't irritable. It doesn't keep track of wrongs. It isn't happy when injustice is done, but it is happy with the truth.

Love never stops being patient, never stops believing, never stops hoping, never gives up.

1 Cor. 13:4-7 (GW)

THE BEAUTY OF "COMMITMENT LOVE"!

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... regardless of who they are.

"But if you are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Pray for the happiness of those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you."

Luke 6:27-28 (NLT)

... always try to do good to each other and to everyone else.

1 Thes. 5:15b (NLT)



Without it, everything else loses its meaning and value.

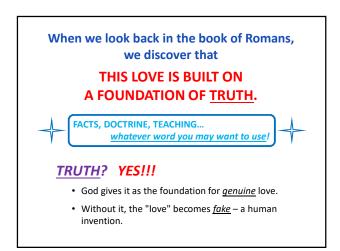
I may speak in the languages of humans and of angels. But if I don't have love, I am a loud gong or a clashing cymbal.

I may have the gift to speak what God has revealed, and I may understand all mysteries and have all knowledge. I may even have enough faith to move mountains. But if I don't have love, I am nothing.

I may even give away all that I have and give up my body to be burned. But if I don't have love, none of these things will help me.

1 Cor. 13:1-3 (GW)

THIS is the love described in Romans 12:9-21! Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Romans 12:9 (NIV) Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:21 (NIV)



GENUINE LOVE ... • IS NOT hostile to truth.

 DOES <u>NOT</u> downplay the need for truth, nor the ability for people to find truth in the Scriptures.

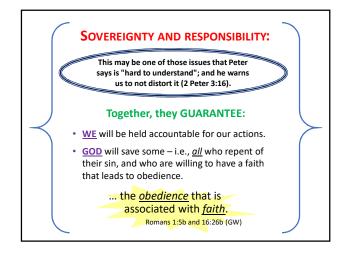
We should not be surprised, because *God* is the "God of *truth"!*

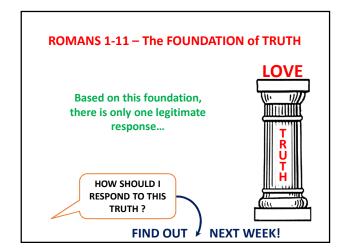
... redeem me, O Lord, the God of truth. Psalm 31:5b (NIV) Whoever invokes a blessing in the land will do so by the God of truth;...

Isaiah 65:16 (NIV)

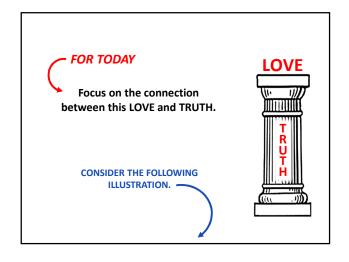
FAKES AND OTHER UNSAVED PEOPLE may **DOWNPLAY** the truth, or INVENT their own "truth," ... But Scripture never separates GENUINE love from GENUINE truth. They always go together, or the love isn't love. NO! YES! TRUTH CAUSES TRUTH DISTINGUISHES I HAVE MY OWN DIVISIONS. WE BETWEEN GENUINE INTERPRETATION JUST NEED LOVE. AND FAKE LOVE. OF "TRUTH."

ROMANS 1-11 – The FOUNDATION of TRUTH This is the basis for genuine love, and includes issues such as: • The complete sinfulness of humans (even "good" humans); our inability to save ourselves. • The supreme love and mercy of God; his ability to save us. • The way that God's sovereignty and human responsibility work together.













Your Mission...

BASED ON THE TRUTH GOD HAS REVEALED...

LOVE!!!

Love must be sincere.

Romans 12:9a (NIV)

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

Love your neighbor as yourself.

Mark 12:30, 31b (NIV)



Credits (1)

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TRUTH AND LOVE

— THEY GO TOGETHER!

TRUTH AND LOVE - BOTH REQUIRE OUR ATTENTION!

Love and truth, as characteristics of God.

David, who God called "a man after my own heart," acknowledged the need to focus on *both*.

- God's love and truth were together the controlling influences for how David lived. Because of this, he could expect vindication from God - Psalm 26:3.
- David publicly spoke about both God's love and truth Psalm 40:10.
- David appealed to both God's love and truth for protection -Psalm 40:11.

Truth and love, together, connected to Christian life.

- **Truth** and **love**, *together*, are the context in which grace, mercy and peace exist 2 John 1:3.
- We need to both walk in the truth and love each other -2 John 1:4-5.

TRUTH - THE FOUNDATION FOR LOVE

• The **truth** of Scripture is the basis for our hope. This hope enables us to have faith (trust in God) and **love** (for God's people) - Colossians 1:4-5.

- Obedience to the **truth** enables us to have a sincere **love** from the heart 1 Peter 1:22.
- **Truth** is the context in which genuine **love** for other Christians can exist 2 John 1:1-2; 3 John 1:1.

LOVE - FOCUSES ON TRUTH

- Love rejoices in truth 1 Corinthians 13:6.
- Love is to be expressed by action and truth 1 John 3:18.
- Love is to be the basis for our willingness to speak the truth Ephesians 4:15.
- God told Israel to love truth and peace Zechariah 8:19.
- Those who refuse to love truth will remain unsaved -2 Thessalonians 2:10.

SOME ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS

- **Love** for evil and for false, hurtful words is incompatible with speaking **truth** Psalm 52:3-4.
- Working together for the **truth** is incompatible with having love for attention and control - 3 John 1:8-9.
- In the Psalms, God's **love** and **truth** may *both* be in focus, though not directly connected Psalm 25:5-6; 119:159-160.
- Do you claim to know God? If you do not obey him, the truth
 is not in you; but if you do obey him, his love is in you 1 John
 2:4-5.

In some verses, different Bible translations may use other words to communicate these concepts - such as, "faithfulness" (truthfulness) for "truth," and "mercy" for "love." If we included all such verses, along with the various synonyms and related concepts that are used in other passages, this list could be greatly expanded.