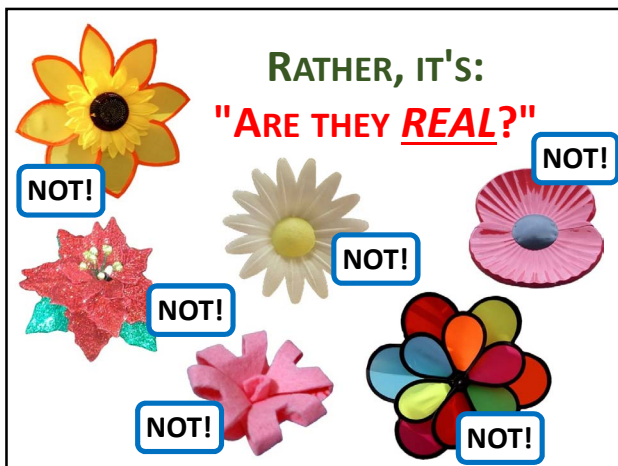


**LOVE**  
Without Hypocrisy  
(in the book of Romans)

68 – The beauty of love  
... based on TRUTH



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 *world* uses as a basis for its false "love."



**BUT THE  
GENUINE KIND  
THAT GOD OFFERS**

**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"!

→ ... 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)

INFLUENCING OUR ATTITUDE

INFLUENCING OUR ACTIONS

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:21 (NIV)

When we look back in the book of Romans, we discover that

THIS LOVE IS BUILT ON A FOUNDATION OF TRUTH.

FACTS, DOCTRINE, TEACHING...

*whatever word you may want to use!*

### TRUTH? YES!!!

- God gives it as the foundation for genuine love.
- Without it, the "love" becomes fake – a human invention.

## GENUINE LOVE ...

- IS **NOT** hostile to truth.
- DOES **NOT** 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.

Psalms 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!

TRUTH CAUSES DIVISIONS. WE JUST NEED LOVE.

I HAVE MY OWN INTERPRETATION OF "TRUTH."

### YES!

TRUTH DISTINGUISHES BETWEEN GENUINE AND FAKE LOVE.

**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.



**SOVEREIGNTY AND RESPONSIBILITY:**

This may be one of those issues that Peter says is "hard to understand"; and he warns us to not distort it (2 Peter 3:16).

Together, they **GUARANTEE:**

- **WE** will be held accountable for our actions.
- **GOD** will save some – i.e., *all* who repent of their sin, and who are willing to have a faith that leads to obedience.

... the *obedience* that is associated with *faith*.

Romans 1:5b and 16:26b (GW)

**ROMANS 1-11 – The FOUNDATION of TRUTH**

Based on this foundation, there is only one legitimate response...

HOW SHOULD I RESPOND TO THIS TRUTH?

FIND OUT → NEXT WEEK!



But here's a hint!  
The answer is found in ROMANS 12:1-2!

**FOR NEXT WEEK!**

And it will result in "Commitment LOVE"!

**FOR TODAY**

Focus on the connection between this LOVE and TRUTH.

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ILLUSTRATION.



**ILLUSTRATION:**

If we were to compare **COMMITMENT LOVE** to a flower, **TRUTH** would be the soil and nutrients that make it grow.

FLOWER ⇔ LOVE

SOIL ⇔ TRUTH







# Your Mission...

## 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.