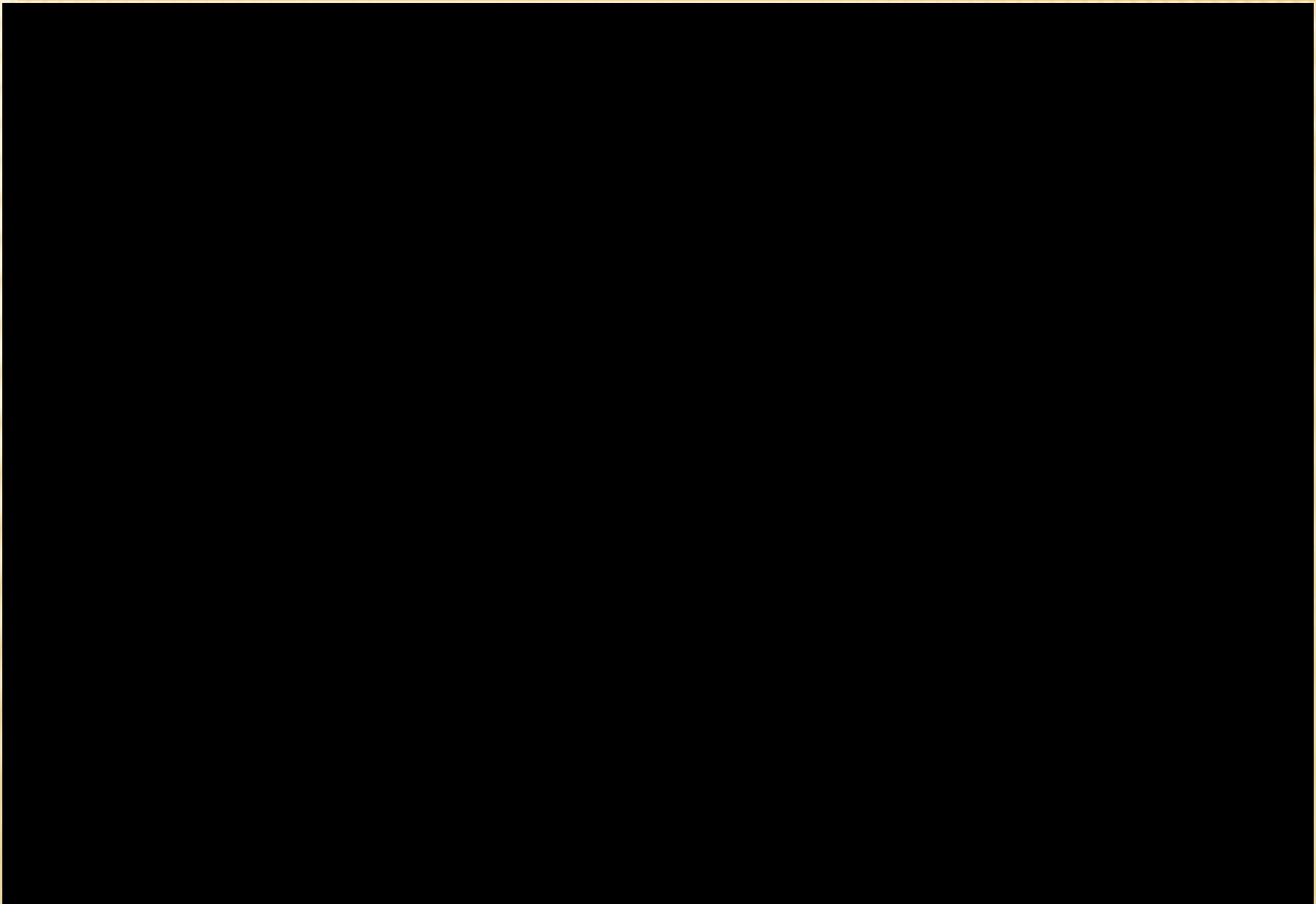


TRUE LOVE



WHAT IS LOVE?

- ✘ Stephen R. Covey taught: At one seminar, after I'd spoken on the importance of demonstrating character within the family, a man came up and said, "I like what you are saying, but my wife and I just don't have the same feelings for each other that we used to. I guess we don't love each other anymore. What can I do?"
- ✘ How would you answer?

PRINCIPLES OF LOVE

- ✘ Love is a Verb
- ✘ Love is completely within your agency. You are an agent to act, not be acted upon
- ✘ God's love is not unconditional - That is a doctrine of the devils.
- ✘ You experience love from God when you act in righteousness.
- ✘ You experience love toward others when you act in righteousness (You control the thermostat of your love)

PRINCIPLES OF LOVE

- ✘ You have no agency in how others act in loving ways towards you - You must choose wisely
- ✘ You can love people to death
- ✘ Love can be harmful
- ✘ It may not be loving to love all of the time
- ✘ You can love anyone so be careful not to love an abusive pig.

LOVE - THE DOCTRINE

- ✘ Is Love a Noun or a Verb?
- ✘ Somewhere in the history of the English language the expression “fall in love” began to be used to describe the sublime experience of finding someone to love. While it is a beautiful idiom, there was inherent risk involved in selecting the verb *fall* because it mostly means accidental, involuntary, with no choice involved. And subtly, it has also led to the use of its distressing corollary, “We fell out of love,” an all-too-common phrase heard nowadays as an excuse for a failed marriage. “Falling in love” and “falling out of love” sound as if love were something that cannot be controlled.

LOVE - THE DOCTRINE

- ✘ Many who feel they are falling out of love with their spouse throw their hands up in resignation as if they were victims of an outside influence that controls them. They begin to wonder, “Do I really want to be married to this man (or woman) for eternity?” Having fallen out of love, as they suppose, they begin to drift apart, often saying things to hurt one another. “I don’t love you anymore” is a common assertion. They tolerate one another for the children’s sake, resenting one another; or they separate, believing their differences to be irreconcilable. The result is a damaged or destroyed family, another casualty of Satan’s assault. How could something so glorious and beautiful as falling in love end up in misery for so many marriages? What goes wrong?

LOVE - THE DOCTRINE

- ✘ For some people, falling in love is a magical encounter, something that seems to happen at first sight. For others, it is a growing affinity and attraction toward another, like budding blossoms that flower into a beautiful bouquet. Though the first type of love may also bloom like the second, it is often merely glandular, a cotton candy kind of love that has no substance. While it may begin with warm cuddles in moonlit glades, it can soon grow cold as honeymoon memories fade and familiarity turns to faultfinding.

LOVE - THE DOCTRINE

- ✘ On the other hand, “divine” love, as President Spencer W. Kimball called it, “is not like that association of the world which is misnamed love, but which is mostly physical attraction. When marriage is based on this only, the parties soon tire of each other. There is a break and a divorce, and a new, fresher physical attraction comes with another marriage, which in turn may last only until it too becomes stale. The love of which the Lord speaks is not only physical attraction, but also faith, confidence, understanding, and partnership. It is devotion and companionship, parenthood, common ideals and standards. It is cleanliness of life and sacrifice and unselfishness. This kind of love never tires nor wanes. It lives on through sickness and sorrow, through prosperity and privation, through accomplishment and disappointment, through time and eternity.”

LOVE - THE DOCTRINE

- ✘ We know that any commandment by God involves agency. We can obey or disobey, but there is always a choice. Therefore, in Matthew 22, verses 37 and 39, when the Lord says, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind,” and “Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself,” [[Matt. 22:37, 39](#)] He is not saying, “I hope you ‘fall in love’ with your neighbor.” The command is a directive, an appeal to the mind to make a conscious choice, involving the mind in reasoning and decision making. **The Savior made it clear that love was a command to be obeyed**—a command upon which “all the law and the prophets” hang ([Matt. 22:40](#)). To achieve a Christlike love we must overcome the natural man (see [Mosiah 3:19](#)), control natural impulses, and even love our enemies (see [Matt. 5:44](#)). **This is a command that requires a decision.**

LOVE - THE DOCTRINE

- ✘ Too many believe that love is a condition, a feeling that involves 100 percent of the heart, something that happens to you. They disassociate love from the mind and, therefore, from agency. In commanding us to love, the Lord refers to something much deeper than romance—a love that is the most profound form of loyalty. He is teaching us that love is something more than feelings of the heart; **it is also a covenant we keep with soul and mind.**

LOVE - THE DOCTRINE

- ✘ Many years ago, I met a woman whom I found very unpleasant. So I decided to try out the "giving leads to love" theory. One day I invited her for dinner. A few days later I offered to help her with a personal problem. On another occasion I read something she'd written and offered feedback and praise. Today we have a warm relationship. The more you give, the more you love. This is why your parents (who've given you more than you'll ever know) undoubtedly love you more than you love them, and you, in turn, will love your own children more than they'll love you. Because deep, intimate love emanates from knowledge and giving, it comes not overnight but over time -- which nearly always means after marriage.

- *HEAD TO HEART" by Gila Manolson*

WHAT IS LOVE?

- ✘ Stephen R. Covey taught: At one seminar, after I'd spoken on the importance of demonstrating character within the family, a man came up and said, "I like what you are saying, but my wife and I just don't have the same feelings for each other that we used to. I guess we don't love each other anymore. What can I do?"
- ✘ Now that you know the doctrine how would you answer?

LOVE - THE DOCTRINE

- ✘ ‘Love her,’ I replied.
- ✘ “He looked puzzled. ‘How do you love when you don’t feel love?’
- ✘ “ ‘My friend,’ I responded, ‘love is a verb. The *feeling* of love is the fruit of love. So love your wife. You did it once, you can do it again. Listen. Empathize. Appreciate. It’s your choice. Are you willing to do that?’
- ✘ Of course, I was asking this man if he was willing to search within himself for the character required to make his marriage work. All our relationships follow the contours of life; they have ups and downs. This is why our families provide a critical measure of our character—and the opportunity, again and again to nurture it.

DEVILISH LOVE DOCTRINE

- ✘ Elder Russell M. Nelson said “While divine love can be called perfect, infinite, enduring, and universal, it cannot correctly be characterized as *unconditional*. The word does not appear in the scriptures. On the other hand, many verses affirm that the higher levels of love the Father and the Son feel for each of us—and certain divine blessings stemming from that love—are *conditional*.”

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- ✘ The term conditional comes from Latin roots—con, meaning “with,” and dicere, meaning “to talk.” Thus, conditional means that “bounds or conditions have been communicated verbally.”
 - ✘ The term unconditional means “without condition or limitation; absolute.”

Understanding that divine love and blessings are not truly “unconditional” can defend us against common fallacies such as these:

“Since God’s love is unconditional, He will love me regardless ...”; or

“Since ‘God is love,’ He will love me unconditionally, regardless ...”

These arguments are used by anti-Christ's to woo people with deception. Nehor, for example, promoted himself by teaching falsehoods: He “testified unto the people that all mankind should be saved at the last day, ... for the Lord had created all men, ... and, in the end, all men should have eternal life.” Sadly, some of the people believed Nehor’s fallacious and unconditional concepts.

In contrast to Nehor’s teachings, divine love warns us that “wickedness never was happiness.” Jesus explains, “Come unto me and be ye saved; ... except ye shall keep my commandments, ... ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

Divine Love Russell M. Nelson *Ensign* February 2003

CONDITIONAL LOVE SCRIPTURES

- ✘ John 14:21
- ✘ John 14:23
- ✘ John 15:10
- ✘ 1 Nephi 17:40
- ✘ D&C 95:12
- ✘ D&C 82:10
- ✘ D&C 130:20-21
- ✘ Malachi 3:8-10

The idea of unconditional love suggests that there are people who expect to be intensely loved under all conditions, no matter how they behave...However it's preposterous...that any one person should love us forever, *no matter what* we do and think.

Children brought up [in a home with “unconditional love”] may also expect that, as adults, they are entitled to find someone who will love them as they have been loved in the past, no matter how awful their behavior might be...If the idea of unconditional love lulls you into believing that you’ll be loved and lived with, no matter how frustrating or infuriating you are,...you’ll take your spouse for granted and overlook opportunities to change... or [it] can make you labor doggedly to rescue a damaged spouse or save an unworkable relationship.

Unconditional love is an unrealistic concept that promotes excessive attachment and control during relationships, and creates excessive guilt and a sense of failure when that relationship ends.

“All you need is love and other lies about marriage”.

John W. Jacobs (2004)

Charity The Pure Love of Christ – 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Suffereth Long

Kind

Envieth Not

Not puffed up

Doth not behave itself unseemly

Seeketh not her own

Is not easily provoked

Thinketh no evil

Rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the truth

Beareth all things

Believeth all things

Hopeth all things

Endureth all things

Never Faileth

Suffereth Long

Right way

Is patient and tolerant,
does not criticize.

Recognizes that spouse
is progressing, is patient
with imperfections.

Wrong way

Is intolerant, ill-tempered,
critical, cranky.

Despite staying together, has
no close relationship.

Is impatient, complains, gives
the silent treatment.

Is Kind

Right way

Is nice, thoughtful,
interested in others.
Is a Good Samaritan,
comforts, is merciful.
Can we “fall out of”
kindness?

Wrong way

Is mean, miserly, cruel,
inconsiderate, unmerciful.
Has a scowling countenance.
Is indifferent, remote,
unconcerned, uninterested,
unresponsive.

Envieth Not

Right way

Is content, grateful for blessings.
Rejoices in another's gifts, talents, success.
Is generous and offers help to those in need.
Lives frugally.
Knows the difference between needs and wants, avoids unnecessary debt.

Wrong way

Is resentful, jealous, greedy, covetous.
Fails to pay an honest tithe.
Is selfish and withholds help (see [Morm. 8:39](#); [Mosiah 4:22, 24-25](#)).
Has a “my,” not “our,” money mentality.
Incurs excessive debt.
Has a spirit of speculation.

- Is ungrateful.
- Is a partial tithe-payer.
- Is vain—sets heart on costly apparel, etc.
- Lives beyond income.
- Allows interest on credit cards to accumulate.
- Does not try to save food or money for future needs.

Is not puffed up

Right way

Is humble, meek,
teachable.

Does not speak vainly or
seek attention.

Happily serves wherever
called.

Lifts, praises, builds
others up.

Seeks the will of God.

Wrong way

Is proud, eager for attention, self-
centered, pompous, boastful.

Murmurs against leaders.

Is condescending with spouse or
“holier than thou.”

Is offended when advice is given.

Does not praise or give due credit to
others.

Aspires to positions.

Is a know-it-all, is unteachable.

Puffed up because of knowledge,
talents, wealth (see [2 Ne. 9:42](#)).

Doth not behave itself unseemly

Right way

Is courteous, well
mannered, tactful,
tasteful, reverent,
respectful, mindful
of others.

Is clean, neat,
orderly.

Wrong way

Is discourteous, crude,
disrespectful, indecent,
improper, irreverent.

Enjoys dirty jokes.

Is boisterous: loud laughter.

Leaves a place worse than it
was found.

Doesn't say "please" or "thank
you."

Has forgotten everyday
courtesies.

Is disorderly and unkempt.

Seeketh not her own

Right way

Is tender-hearted,
sensitive, compassionate,
merciful, generous.
Kneels together in prayer,
listens with empathy,
avoids contention.
Thinks “we” and “ours.”
Is approachable.
Seeks to please God.
Seeks unity, kneels

Wrong way

Is demanding, controlling, selfish,
manipulative, blaming.
Lacks unity, is contentious.
Thinks “I” and “mine.”
Seldom listens, is aloof.
Seeks self-gratification, is self-
indulgent.
Seeks the praise of men
Doesn't say “I'm sorry.”
Is reluctant to render help (as with
household chores).
Is guilty of self-pity and advertises it.
Is uncaring.

Is not easily provoked

Right way

Is forgiving, patient, calm, gentle, respectful.

Understands that anger is a decision and can be controlled.

Is a peacemaker (see [3 Ne. 12:9](#)).

Wrong way

Is irritable, spiteful, vengeful. Is easily angered, often hostile and abusive.

Is defensive, responds with disgust or contempt.

Swears, has a bad temper.

Argues over every silly little thing, is not open minded.

Disciplines in anger.

Does not bridle passions (see [Alma 38:12](#)).

Thinketh no evil

Right way

Is nonjudgmental, respectful, helpful, pure, obedient.

Has “no more disposition to do evil” ([Mosiah 5:2](#)).

Is modest in dress, thought, speech.

Virtue garnishes thoughts unceasingly.

Wrong way

Is cruel, conniving, deceitful, dishonest. Indulges in pornography and inappropriate music.

Dresses immodestly.

Is an inventor of “evil things” ([Rom. 1:30](#)).

Is judgmental, prejudiced, faultfinding.

Bears grudges, gossips.

Participates in jokes about intimate or sacred things.

Seeks improper intimacy with spouse.

Tolerates evil influences.

Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth

Right way

Stays close to the Spirit through regular scripture study, prayer, obedience.

Has discovered that truth leads to joy and happiness

Wrong way

Has an “eat, drink, and be merry” mentality.

Is indulgent, unfaithful, disobedient.

Is addicted to vices.

Justifies self, makes excuses.

Is light-minded.

Is casual with prayers.

Is not diligent about gospel teaching or scripture reading in the home.

Beareth all things

Right way

Has moral courage, is bold in truth.

Turns the other cheek, is calm. (This does not mean that abuse victims should silently bear cruelty, or follow a spouse disobedient to God.)

Wrong way

Is insulting, defensive, irritable, touchy, grouchy, moody.

Is a coward.

Is ashamed of righteousness.

Is ungrateful.

Yields to peer pressure in compromising situations.

Is apathetic.

Is weary in well-doing

Believeth all things

Right way

Clearly sees the eternal potential of spouse and forever families.
Sees others as children of God.
Holds fast to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Wrong way

Doubts spouse's potential, is critical and cynical.
Is unfriendly to spouse.
Is condescending, intolerant.
Has let go of the iron rod, is not active in the Church.
Is distanced, remote, inattentive, insensitive.
Is a hypocrite, lives a lie.
Goes to church, but wishes to be elsewhere

Hopeth all things

Right way

Is an optimist.
Looks for the best.
Praises, builds up,
expresses affection.
Continues courting
spouse.

Wrong way

Is a pessimist.
Is a nagger.
Is a faultfinder.
Is unrepentant, in denial.
Is a fatalist.
Is bored.
Is neglectful.
Doesn't feel worthy to pray
for forgiveness.

Endureth all things

Right way

Doesn't complain or murmur.

Is responsible and gladly accepts callings.

Sees growth in adversity.

Has a desire to learn and progress.

Is steadfast, knows life is a test.

Wrong way

Is always complaining, murmuring.

Shirks or avoids responsibility.

Can't keep a job.

Is lukewarm or gives half-hearted effort.

Is lazy or spends too much time on hobbies, TV, etc.

Is afflicted with self-pity

Never Faileth

Right way

Loves as Christ
loves us.
Is supportive

Wrong way

“Falls out of love.”
Flirts with individuals other than
spouse.
Is an adulterer.
Loves conditionally, based on spouse
being healthy, successful, slender,
maintaining good looks. .
Has wandering eyes.
Views spouse more as a burden than a
blessing.
Dreams or fantasizes about individuals
other than spouse