

X. GOD AND LOVE

1. Biblical love is not:

A. Harmful to your inner man.

1. Biblical love will not move a person away from God, by encouraging thought processes and a lifestyle that is apart from God's Word and God's church.
2. Biblical love grows a person psychologically.
 - It confesses sin (deals with guilt biblically)
 - It fears God above man (no room for co-dependency)

B. Harmful to your outer man.

1. Biblical love never results in physical pain being inflicted.
 - If there is physical abuse going on while dating, end the relationship.
 - Those who grew up in a violent family need to be taught a different way of interacting. Observe how anger is handled prior to marriage – the energy of anger can be used to solve problems.

C. Manipulative.

1. Biblical love does not use emotions to manipulate a response.
2. Manipulative behaviors include:
 - Inflicting guilt, crying to get your way, using anger or rage to change a person's behavior, temper tantrums, pouting, bad moods, excessive mood swings, silent treatment.
3. Counter manipulative behavior by pointing out what biblical responsibility is not being met, and what biblical behavior would look like.

D. Ego-centric.

1. Biblical love is rooted in God, and seeks God's glory.
2. Biblical love seeks to give instead of take.
3. Biblical love is courteous.
 - Temper tantrums, pouting, moods, silent treatment, keeping the person waiting, (etc.) are ego-centric.
 - The overriding rule of courtesy is treating others the way you'd like to be treated. To do that you have to be aware of where they are and how they feel when you are with them.

E. Dependent on the actions or response of the other person.

1. Biblical love is more true, deep, and passionate than the world's conception of love. It flows from God, who taught us to give.
2. When you understand that love is about giving, you will have learned what love means. It has nothing to do with what the other person does or doesn't do.
 - Selfless giving sounds nice in theory, but in reality it means you have to sacrifice.
 - Love denies self. Rich Mullins said, "Love is found more in the things you've given up than in the things you have kept."
 - Love means you do what you don't feel like doing for the good of the one you love, no matter what they do or don't do.

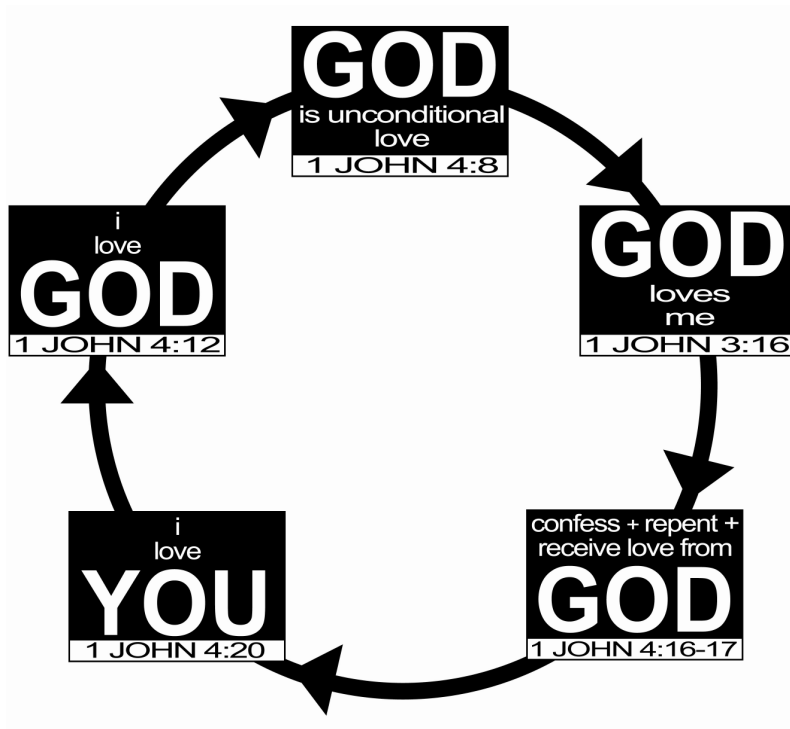
F. Based on a feeling.

1. Biblical love is more true, deep, and passionate than the world's conception of love.
 - Do not shy away from the zealous, joyful expressions of love and romance.
 - Christians have found the most pleasurable pursuit of all – the pursuit of God.
 - Being a Christian does not kill delight, it intensifies it.
2. Biblical love displays the transforming reality of the gospel even if it doesn't feel like it.
 - We Christians should out-do the world in the way we love.

2. Circle of God's love

A. False strategies we use to stop the circle of love

1. Turn love into a _____ words (1 John 1:7)
God is love → God loves me → I love God
2. Turn love into w _____ (Matthew 22:37)
God is love → God loves me → I love you.
3. D _____ God's love (Genesis 1:27; John 3:16)
God is love → God loves me → That's impossible, I'm ugly
4. Block love through g _____ (Matt. 22:39, 19:19; Gal. 5:14)
God is love → God loves me → It's sin to love myself
(false humility)
5. Block love through s _____ (Romans 3:10; Psalm 14:1-3)
God is love → God loves me → I am already loveable
(false pride)



3. Source of Love

A. Love and intimacy

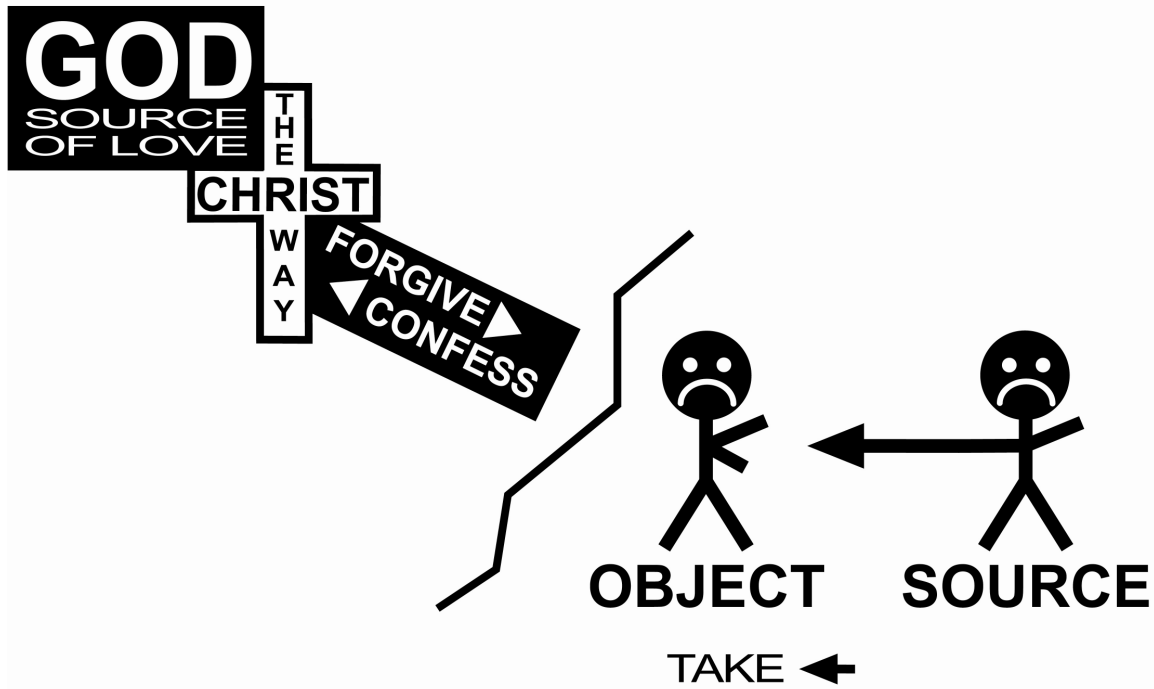
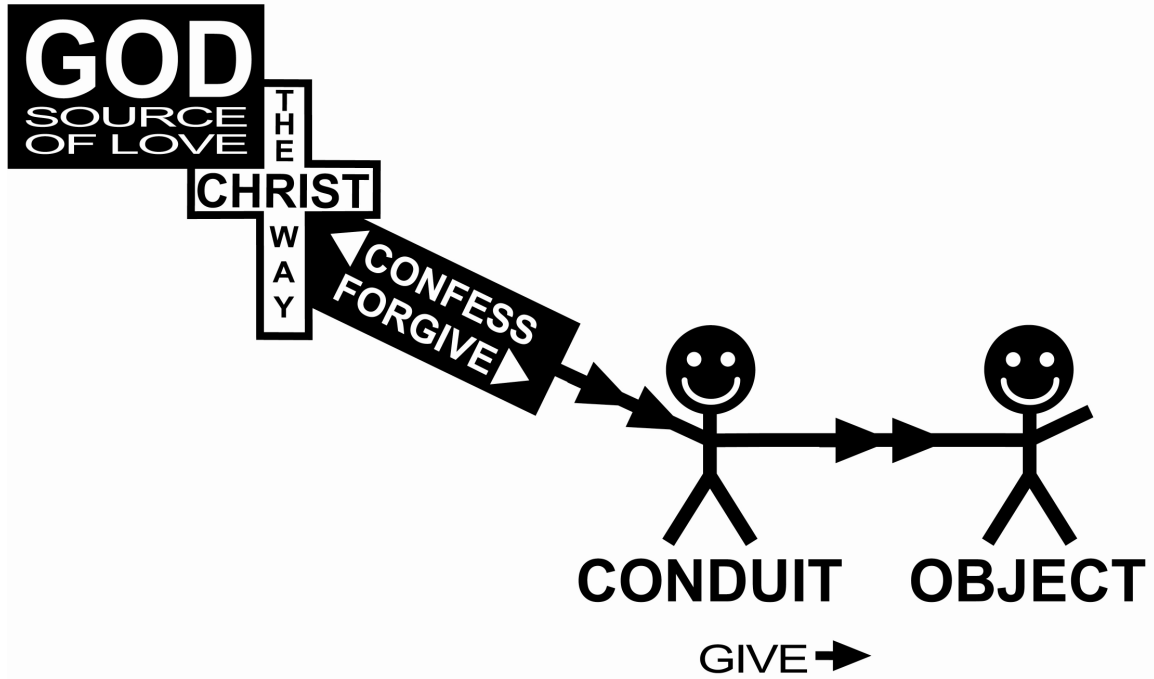
1. Definition of love

- *Love is a commitment to a relationship involving our whole personality (intellect, heart, soul, emotions) where we attempt to biblically meet the true needs of the one being loved through the leading and power of the Holy Spirit.*

2. Definition of intimacy

- *Intimacy is the involvement of two or more people in an interdependent relationship of love based upon a shared perception of spiritual equality.*

B. Unending love



1 John 4:7-16
