

**CONNECTED**  
**Message #4 “I Love You, I Love You Not”**  
**Malachi 2:13-15, 1 Cor. 13:4-11**  
**May 29 & 30, 2010**

*“Another thing you do: You flood the Lord’s altar with tears. You weep and wail because He no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. <sup>14</sup> You ask, ‘Why?’ It is because the Lord is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant. <sup>15</sup> Has not [the Lord] made them one? In flesh and spirit they are His. And why one? Because He was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.” Malachi 2:13-15*

*“Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn’t want what it doesn’t have. Love doesn’t strut, doesn’t have a swelled head, <sup>5</sup> doesn’t force itself on others, isn’t always ‘me first’, doesn’t fly off the handle, doesn’t keep score of the sins of others, <sup>6</sup> doesn’t revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, <sup>7</sup> puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end. <sup>8</sup> Love never dies.” Message, 1 Cor. 13:4-8*

*“When people’s lives contradict their theology, it’s only a matter of time before they will either find or invent a theology to match their lifestyle.”*

**FIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF COVENANT LOVE**

**1.** -----  
*“Love is patient, love is kind...It is not rude, it is not self-seeking...It always protects...”*

*“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.” Phil. 2:3*

*“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.” Rom. 12:10-11*

*“Jesus called them together and said, ‘You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:25-*

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**2.** -----  
*“Love is...love is...(Love) rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”*

*“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her.” Eph. 5:25-26; See also Col. 3:19*

*Conditional Love always breeds -----.*

*Conditional Love encourages -----.*

*Conditional Love leads to the -----.*

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
"It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails."

Big Truth #1: Commitment is essential for

\_\_\_\_\_  
"When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow. 5 It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it." Eccl. 5:4-5

"When bailing out is an option, it usually becomes an attractive one."

Big Truth #2: Commitment is essential for

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marriage is not a commitment "as long as we both shall love" but "as long as we both shall live". 1 Cor. 7:39

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
"(Love) keeps no record of wrongs."

Forgiveness means;

A. I will not anticipate their \_\_\_\_\_.

B. I will not \_\_\_\_\_ (and myself) of their failure. I will quit exacting \_\_\_\_\_ over and over again.

D. I will not require them \_\_\_\_\_ I give them grace.

E. I will not \_\_\_\_\_ as a punishment toward them.

5. \_\_\_\_\_  
"Love never fails."