

A person is seen from behind, standing with their arms raised high in a gesture of praise or worship. They are wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt. The background is a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise, with golden light breaking through dark, textured clouds. The overall mood is one of hope, faith, and spiritual connection.

# **Belonging to Him**

**OUR NEED FOR  
*LOVING* RELATIONSHIP**

A person is seen from behind, wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt, with their arms raised high in a gesture of praise or worship. The background is a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise, with golden light breaking through dark, layered clouds. The overall mood is one of awe and devotion.

# **Belonging to Him**

**True Love in Relationship**

# **True Love In Relationship**

## **The Full Scope of God's Love**

**We all have a need for loving relationship. And that need is ultimately fulfilled through relationship with Christ.**

**But loving relationship in Christ has at least two sides:**

**Acceptance  
and  
Expectation**

# True Love In Relationship

## The Full Scope of God's Love



*“Jesus said to her,  
‘Woman, where are  
they? Has no one  
condemned you?’*

*‘No one, Lord.’”*

*(John 8:10-11)*

# True Love In Relationship

## The Full Scope of God's Love



*“Neither do I condemn you.*

*Go and from now on sin no more.”*

*(John 8:10-11)*

# True Love In Relationship

## The Full Scope of God's Love



### Acceptance & Expectation

- Mentors
- Teachers
- Parents
- Coaches

# True Love In Relationship

## The Full Scope of God's Love



### Acceptance & Expectation

*“Jesus looked at him and said, ‘You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas’ (which means Peter).” (John 1:42)*

# True Love In Relationship

## The Full Scope of God's Love

Some parallel terms for *Acceptance & Expectation?*

*Love & Truth*

**-or-**

*True Love*



# True Love In Relationship

## The Full Scope of God's Love

The best picture of God's love is that he accepts us for who we are, but then invites us to grow into who we can be in him.

In this sense, in our need for loving relationship, we especially need God's *true* love.

# True Love In Relationship

## HOUSE RULES

If you Open it - Close it.!

If you turn it On - turn it Off.

If you Unlock it - Lock it.!

If you Break it - Fix it.!

If you Can't Fix it - Report it!

If you Borrow it - Return it ✦

If you Make a mess - Clean it UP!

If you Move it - Put it back >

If it doesn't concern You

DON'T MESS WITH IT  
IF YOU DON'T KNOW -ASK

# True Love In Relationship

## **FAMILY RULES**

Keep your promises

**PAY WITH HUGS AND KISSES**

**HELP EACH OTHER**

Think of others before yourself

**Say I love you**

**DO YOUR BEST**

*Say please and thank you*

**Always Tell the Truth**

Laugh at Yourself

**Hug Often**

Use Kind Words

*Love Each Other*

# True Love In Relationship

## HOUSE RULES



1. The Wife is  
always right.

2. If the Wife is  
wrong, see rule 1.

# True Love In Relationship

## Living Under God's Roof

*“[Christ] gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11-16)*

# True Love In Relationship

## Living Under God's Roof

*“So that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.” (Ephesians 4:11-16)*

# True Love In Relationship

## Living Under God's Roof

*“Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”*

*(Ephesians 4:11-16)*

# True Love In Relationship

## Living Under God's Roof

**“Ultimately, at the heart of the proclamation of the truth is love. And a life of love is the embodiment of the truth.**

**The Church reflects this relationship when its witness to the truth has love as its style and as its power.”**

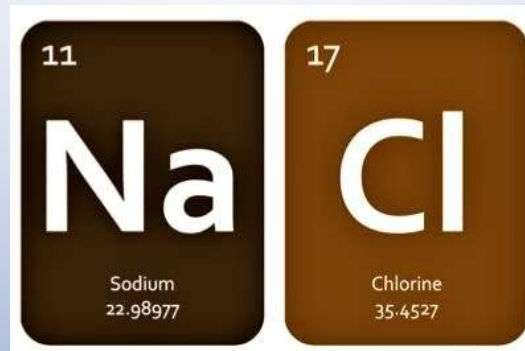
**– Andrew Lincoln**



# True Love In Relationship



# True Love In Relationship



# True Love In Relationship

## Truth Without Love...Love Without Truth

- Truth without love can lead to tyranny.

*“Woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every herb, and neglect justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.” (Luke 11:42)*

*“I desire mercy, and not sacrifice. For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.” (Matthew 9:13)*

# True Love In Relationship

## Truth Without Love...Love Without Truth

- Truth without love can lead to tyranny.

*“If I can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge...but have not love, I am nothing.”  
(1 Corinthians 13:2)*

# True Love In Relationship

## Truth Without Love...Love Without Truth

- Love without truth can lead to sentimental disintegration or chaos.

*“The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan...with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.” (2 Thessalonians 2:9-10)*

# True Love In Relationship

## Truth Without Love...Love Without Truth

- Love without truth can lead to sentimental disintegration or chaos.

*“Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means!” (Romans 6:1-2)*

*“You were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”  
(Galatians 5:13)*

# True Love In Relationship



# True Love In Relationship

## The True Love of God

**Most laws (or commandments) exist for our benefit. Their purpose is in this sense—loving:**

- **A stop sign—A *Social* Law for our benefit.**
- **Gravity—A *Physical* Law it would benefit us not to compromise near a cliff.**
- **God's Word—A *Spiritual* Law we can follow for our benefit.**



# True Love In Relationship

## The True Love of God

*“Now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” (1 Corinthians 13:13)*

# True Love In Relationship

## The True Love of God

*“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.*

*All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:36-40)*

# True Love In Relationship

## The True Love of God

*“Be very careful to observe the commandment and the law...to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and to cling to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.” (Joshua 22:5)*

*“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”  
(John 14:15)*

# True Love In Relationship

## The True Love of God



# True Love In Relationship

## The True Love of God

*“That we may no longer be children...rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.”  
(Ephesians 4:14-15)*

# True Love In Relationship

## The True Love of God

*“The Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives...God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.”  
(Hebrews 12:6-8)*

A person is seen from behind, standing with their arms raised high in a gesture of praise or worship. They are wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt. The background is a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise, with a bright sun partially obscured by clouds, creating a golden glow. The overall mood is one of hope and devotion.

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