

“REAL LOVE IS RELEASING”

FREEDOM:

- Real love releases you from sin, guilt, condemnation, accusation & shame.
 - Jesus forgives you and sets you gloriously free!
- Real love motivates you to set others free in the same way Jesus set you free! (Eph. 4:31-32; Col. 3:13)
- When you release others (and yourself), God’s love flows freely in your life.
- If you don’t release others (and yourself), the flow of God’s love becomes constricted in your life.

EASILY PROVOKED (1Cor. 13:5):

- Real love is not irritable. Irritable means you are easily angered, provoked, touchy, fretful or resentful; often being over-sensitive and over-reacting.
- What causes us to be irritable?
 - Long-standing hurts and resentments.
 - We expect others to tip-toe around our emotional minefields.
 - *A failure to take personal responsibility for your feelings.*
 - It is a way to punish others.
 - You can’t get your way.
- The cure for irritability ... take personal responsibility for your feelings.
 - Others do not “make” you angry.
 - Seek God’s healing for your woundedness and brokenness.

KEEPING A RECORD OF WRONGS (1Cor. 13:5):

- Real love does not keep score. “Love does not reckon up or calculating consider the evil done to it” (Vine’s).
 - “Love your enemies” (Mt. 6:44).
 - “Forgive one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you” (Eph. 4:32).
 - Open ledgers and secret ledgers.

- Often feeling like others “owe you”.
- Looking forward to a “day of revenge”.
- The cure ... deep, genuine and ongoing forgiveness. Releasing debts.
 - Forgiveness releases you to face the problem, personally and relationally.
 - Forgiveness is not enabling abusive, manipulative relationships.

REAL LOVE IS RELEASING:

- When we become people who release others;
 - We release God to work in their lives (Ro. 12:19-21).
 - God’s forgiveness is released in our lives (Mt. 6:14-15).
 - God’s blessings are released into your life (Lk. 6:37-38).
 - The flow of God’s love in our lives will not be constricted.