

# Family Secrets: The "Top-Down" Truth

Week 2 of 4

WHY DO SOME FAMILIES... WHAT'S THEIR SECRET?

## THE FAMILY SECRETS:

- ☞ Image Isn't Everything
- ☞ Love is a Top Down Thing
- ☞ Ground Rules are Foundational
- ☞ The Life You Live is the Legacy You Leave

TODAY, WE ARE GOING TO TALK ABOUT LOVE / I'M GOING TO CHANGE YOUR MIND

**Everyone is asking: "How do I get love?"**

LOVE LANGUAGES / DR. PHIL / HIS NEEDS HER NEEDS // THEY ARE ALL MISSING SOMETHING  
WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH LOVE (SHOW TANKS) / DON'T KNOW REAL LOVE ANYWAY

**You won't believe this:**

**Love is not a two-way street.**

NOT A RELATIONSHIP OR INTERPLAY / REAL LOVE IS ALWAYS ONE-WAY AND TOP-DOWN  
ILL: BOB AND SUSAN ALWAYS LOVED / STAN WAS FAITHFUL TO LINDA AS SHE DIED

Love, as shown in the Bible, is the one-sided,  
full-abandon effort of a holy God to  
heal his enemies.

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Romans 5:8

*As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved.*

Ephesians 2:1-5

The love to which we are called is one-sided,  
full-abandon effort to lift up others.

*This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.*

1 John 3:16

**"True love is unfair and sacrificial!" YOU'RE RIGHT! // "I CAN'T KEEP THAT UP"  
I CAN'T KEEP GIVING AND GIVING // ISN'T MARRIAGE A TWO-WAY STREET?**

## The Top-Down Love Flow

Read 1 John 4:7-19 (p. 846)

"We love because he first loved us" — 1 John 4:19  
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LOVE IS CONTAINED IN THIS VERSE

**SOURCE: ALL LOVE begins WITH God.**

SPOUSES: WITHOUT A SOLID CONNECTION TO GOD, ALL LOVE IN YOUR HOME WILL BE HOLLOW  
SINGLES: YOU MUST NOT GIVE YOUR HEART TO ANYONE WITHOUT A SOLID CONNECTION TO GOD

*If God isn't involved, it's not really love.*

**INFLOW: "I get MY Love FROM God."**

YOU CANNOT GIVE WHAT YOU DO NOT HAVE

- ☞ God comforts me in my woundedness (Prayer).
- ☞ God shapes me with his guidance (His Word).
- ☞ God supplies my true needs (His Spirit).

**OUTFLOW: "THE LOVE I have, I give."**

*[Paul]: "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"*

Acts 20:35

LOVE IS TO BE GIVEN IN WAYS APPROPRIATE TO THE RELATIONSHIP. // EVERYONE GETS LOVE, BUT IT LEAVES ME IN DIFFERENT WAYS. // IF I LOVE MY WIFE LIKE MY COWORKER ... // GIRLFRIEND / WIFE

**OVERFLOW: "ANY LOVE I RECEIVE FROM OTHERS IS A  
blessing NOT TO BE expected,  
demanded, OR EVEN sought."**

**But, I don't wanna...**

ESCAPE CLAUSE: ABUSE?? DON'T MISAPPLY THIS / ASK FOR CLARITY  
LISTEN, I REALIZE THAT EVERYTHING I'VE SAID CAN BE SEEN AS PESSIMISTIC, DEFEATIST,  
HOPELESS. IT ALL SOUNDS DIFFICULT, UNPLEASANT, AND DARN NEAR IMPOSSIBLE.

- ☞ Loving like this connects you deeply with Christ.
- ☞ Loving like this is unbelievably fulfilling.  
BRYNN BIRMAN WAS DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH HER DAUGHTER SAMANTHA...