**Loving Our Neighbors**

**Love the Way Jesus Taught It**

**The Characteristics of Love**

**Love Does Not Rejoice in Unrighteousness but Rejoices with the Truth**

**I. Love Does Not Rejoice in Evil**

Love finds no pleasure either in doing wrong or in supporting what is wrong.

A. Love is not excited about evil itself

**Isaiah 5:20** - *Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!*

B. Love is not excited about wanting others to sin

**1 Peter 4:3-4** - *For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries. In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you;*

C. Love does not spread sin

**Proverbs 10:12** - *Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all transgressions.*

**Proverbs 11:13** - *He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy conceals a matter.*

**Proverbs 17:9** - *He who conceals a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends.*

**Proverbs 28:13** - *He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.*

D. Love does not participate in sin

**Galatians 2:11-14** - *But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision. The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, “If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?*

**II. Love Rejoices in the Truth**

Love finds joy in living according to truth and supporting all that is true

A. Love invests time into the truth

**Psalm 1:1-2** - *How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.*

B. Love spends its time talking about things that are good

C. Love is excited to share the works of God

D. Love is thrilled when another person succeeds

**Conclusion**

Recognize your willingness to rejoice with evil is inconsistent with biblical love

Repent for a heart that found joy in evil rather than truth

Remember that Jesus will never leave you or forsake you and he stands ready to forgive you

Apply the heart of excitement whenever Truth wins.