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Nancy Rockey

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Life Renewal Institute Newsletter

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" Love is my God-given power of choice to do that which is in the best interest of another regardless of my feelings.."



What is True Love?



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LOVE – the word is easy to say in many contexts. “I love ice cream” (I have a great liking for ice cream) or “I love to do crafts” (I really desire to do crafts and enjoy spending time doing them) or “I Love a Parade” (isn’t that the title of a song?) or “I Love Paris in the Springtime” (an old song) or it even can be used having something to do with the scoring of a tennis game.

Love is my God-given power of choice to do that which is in the best interest of another, regardless of my feelings.

They had been married for 31 years and were working their reconstruction/contracting business as a team. In the prime of their marriage and careers, the unthinkable happened when he suffered a stroke. Shortly after the first there was a second, and then a couple of heart attacks that required three surgical interventions to clean out and put stents in arteries. Through these several life-threatening experiences, she remained at his side. He struggled to regain strength and mental acuity, and when he was able to come home, she began the arduous task of organizing his equipment and selling it off bit by bit. Their livelihood as they had known it was over, and with its loss came the concern over financial survival. They were still young, a lifetime ahead of them, but the future was uncertain. Just about the time his health seemed to be stabilizing, another episode would occur. Love bears all things, endures all things, suffers long and is kind – that’s just the way it is. Hands and hearts clasped firmly together, they have braved the future, and little by little, because of their great love and strong commitment, he has improved and they are not only surviving, but thriving.

The Bible makes it simple what love is like in 1 Corinthians 13:

- ♥ suffers long and is kind,
- ♥ love does not envy,
- ♥ love does not parade itself,
- ♥ is not puffed up;
- ♥ does not behave rudely,
- ♥ does not seek its own,
- ♥ is not provoked, thinks no evil;
- ♥ does not rejoice in iniquity but rejoices in the truth;
- ♥ bears all things,
- ♥ believes all things,
- ♥ hopes all things,
- ♥ endures all things.
- ♥ Love never fails.

This list of love’s characteristics is used frequently in weddings, to admonish a couple about how to behave in their new marriage. Sometimes the admonition is heeded and more often than not, it goes right over the head of the groom and flies unnoticed through the bride’s veil. Pastoral teachings are usually obliterated by the emotions of the moment.

For richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, forsaking all others and cleaving only unto the mate.

Husbands have pushed their wives wheelchairs. Wives have endured great physical hardship to partner with their mates, so that a family can make it through the tough times. They have lovingly cared for them even when they could not respond, even with a hug or kiss. They have teamed up to care for invalid children, aged parents, parentless children or others who are in need. Surely this is commitment, an important aspect of love.

What is meant by true love. We believe that it is only experienced by those who have first rid themselves of those feelings and emotions that block love’s experience in the life and expression in relationships. We’ll take you briefly into one or two “love” relationships to see the demonstration of love. Before we do however, let’s offer the definition of love that we use in teaching and as a guide to which we compare our own behaviors.

To do that which is in the best interest of another sometimes requires that what feels right, good or comfortable to you, is sacrificed for the eventual good of the one loved. The wife who creates a crisis in a marriage because her husband is drinking heavily, the husband who calls for an intervention because his wife is depressed and seems unable to do anything about it, the parents who release the child from their home, removing the crutch and



Who to Contact:

Editor:

Audrey Woods
audrey@yourlri.com

Product Orders:

Chana Kostenko
 1-888-800-0574

General Info:

liferenewal@comcast.net

Planning a Live Seminar:

Audrey Woods,
audrey@yourlri.com

Vic Kostenko,
vic@yourlri.com



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control, so that he or she can venture out on his/her own and succeed. This is the expression of true love, but sometimes it has to be tough and goes against what feels right.

John Huntsman is a man who grew up as a pauper and has become a billionaire, but says he hopes to die a pauper. Why? When he was young, his mother, then in her early 50's, died in his arms. She died of the disease he is now endeavoring to eradicate – cancer. Huntsman's fortune was made in the chemical business, and in the next eighteen months he will donate about two billion dollars to cancer research and treatment at the Huntsman Cancer Institute, which he founded, in Salt Lake City, Utah. He has, in tight financial times, actually borrowed money from a bank to meet his financial commitment to this charity that he holds dear. Having given all he has to see that the disease that took his mother no longer has the power to destroy, he will die the way he came into this world, devoid of earthly goods. His Institute, complete with both treatment center and extensive research laboratories, is making giant leaps in cancer eradication. The childhood Leukemia cure rate has jumped from 50% to 90%.

Hanging on the wall behind Huntsman's desk is this saying:

“The greatest exercise for the human heart is to reach down and lift another up.”

So it's not all about pricey perfume, decadent chocolate or red roses, but about a willingness to put self aside to care for the needs of another – the object of your love. And isn't that what God did for you and for me?



Denying Himself, he sent his beloved son to live and die, so that you and I can die to self and live. It is in the sacrifice of lifting another up, that we experience love.

So on Valentines Day, when cards, roses, chocolates and expensive perfumes are given as symbols or tokens of love, consider putting aside your feelings and doing what is in the best interest of your mate, your child or some other. That may mean dinner at a nice restaurant, dressing up when you'd rather be in jeans, fixing a candlelight meal at home, or just giving up an opinion, sacrificing the need to be right and lifting another up – doing that which is in the best interest of another, regardless of your feelings.

Love is eternal. Death does not diminish it. If you truly loved a person, you don't stop loving them because they have passed on. If you truly loved a person, you don't stop because they want their freedom. If you love a person, you don't stop, even when what is in their best interest requires your love to be tough.



Now then, men –women, what are your plans to make an extra effort when Cupid is in the news and valentine cards are making Hallmark rich? Will you hurt the one you love just to boycott a commercial holiday or will you buy the expected roses without LOVE in the bouquet? Perhaps you might consider going beyond yourself to create a truly memorable experience on the day when Cupid aim's his bow and shoots his arrows? Remember, love is doing what is in the best interest of the one you love – whatever that is.

♥ Editor's Corner ♥

Wow what a challenge these last two weeks have been! When I first began working with LRI, I began storing the files I created on an external hard drive so I would be sure and have them if my laptop ever decided to quit on me. I've learned my lesson the hard way before with my home computer. It never crossed my mind that external hard drives could quit, until mine did two weeks ago. All my data for the last year was gone (including my newsletter template) along with family pictures and videos.

The hard drive company said they would replace it, and could try to recover the data for a price range of \$700 - \$2900. I was sick. A company here in town said they thought they could recover the data and gave me a price MUCH lower. Alas, after having the thing for a week, they said it was impossible to recover anything.

A friend of mine has a Computer Consulting business and has done wonders with my home computer. He agreed to take a look at it, but again was unable to access anything. He referred me to a place that would attempt it for \$500 - \$2000. A little better than the last, but still WAY too much.

Several of us at LRI were praying hard during all of this. As I was telling our church secretary about it, she was quite insistent that I call the guy who works on her home computer. What could it hurt. I wasn't getting my data any other way. He thought he might have a few tricks that the others hadn't had, and would be glad to at least look at it. I took it to him and told him I was going home to pray for him.

Long story short, a few hours later...success. Everything was there and copied over to another hard drive. GOD IS SOO GOOD AND MERCIFUL.

Even though I **thought** I was being careful and doing the best job possible, I messed things up big time. As I've

worked on my recovery I've learned that even though my parents did the **very best** they knew how in raising me, they still made mistakes which caused me pain. I've done the same with my kids, even though I wish I hadn't. The good thing is, we can learn from our mistakes to make things better. (Guess who's got back up now on her hard drives?) God is just as merciful, if not more so, in our emotional healing as He was with my hard drive.

If you would like to learn more about how you can fix your mistakes or the mistakes your parents made, contact us and we would be happy to help you acquire the tools and support you in any way we can on your Journey. Contact me at audrey@yourlri.com with questions, comments, and suggestions. Or visit our website: <http://www.yourlri.com> for more info.

Audrey Woods



♥ LRI Connect ♥

If you haven't visited LRI Connect lately, you are missing out. Join in the discussion today with your stories, ideas, questions, and suggestions.

If you are a first time user, you will need to register with your email address and a user name to protect your privacy. Your info will not be given out to any 3rd party at any time.

♥ Lies At the Altar ♥



The truth about great marriages", By Dr. Robin Smith. This is an amazing book. Once you start reading this book you won't be able to put it down. The Author describes carefully and precisely the elements we need to have for a true and happy marriage. This book will open your eyes about what marriage is really all about. "It's a must have" kind of book. *Rose Veronica Foulke*

♥ Marriage Joins Two People in the Circle of It's Love ♥

Marriage is a commitment to life, the best that two people can find and bring out in each other. It offers opportunities for sharing and growth that no other relationship can equal. It is a physical and an emotional joining that is promised for a lifetime.

Within the circle of its love, marriage encompasses all of life's most important relationships. A wife and a husband are each other's best friend, confidant, lover, teacher, listener, and critic. And there may come times when one partner is heartbroken or ailing, and the love of the other may resemble the tender caring of a parent or child.

Marriage deepens and enriches every facet of life. Happiness is fuller, memories are fresher, commitment is stronger, even anger is felt more strongly, and passes away more quickly.

Marriage understands and forgives the mistakes life is unable to avoid. It encourages and nurtures new life, new experiences, new ways of expressing a love that is deeper than life.

When two people pledge their love and care for each other in marriage, they create a spirit unique unto themselves which binds them closer than any spoken or written words. Marriage is a promise, a potential made in the hearts of two people who love each other and takes a lifetime to fulfill.

Edmund O'Neill

♥ Register to Attend ♥

The Journey – Segment 3

AFFIRMATION

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<http://www.yourLRI.com>
1-888-8000LRI (1-888-800-0574)

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Drs. Ron and Nancy Rockley

♥ December blog titles:

- “Saying Good-bye is Painful”
- “Here We Go Again!”
- “Adjustments”
- “More Adjustments?”



Upcoming Live 2008 Events

Date	Place	Seminar
March 22— 23	<u>Portland, OR</u>	Abuse
April 12—13	<u>Chattanooga, TN</u>	Attachment
April 18—19	<u>Ventura, CA</u>	Acceptance
June 9—15	Mt. Vernon, OH	Camp meeting
Sept. 5—6	Ventura, CA	Abuse
Oct. 25-26	Walla Walla, WA	TBA

The Journey – Segment 1

ATTACHMENT

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Acquire tools to improve your sense of belonging
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April 12
8:3- a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
(lunch incl)

April 13
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Local Contact:
423-785-7619

TO REGISTER:

<http://www.yourLRI.com>
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Drs. Ron and Nancy Rockley



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	Changes That Heal	\$12.99		
	Changes that Heal – Workbook	\$12.99		
	Chosen	\$12.99		
	En Casa – Belonging translated to Spanish	\$12.99		
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	Healing the Scars of Emotional Abuse	\$12.99		
	Heart Speaks	\$14.00		
	Hearts Code	\$14.95		
	His Needs – Her Needs	\$19.99		
	His Needs – Her Needs (audio book)	\$39.99		
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	Sheet Music	\$12.99		
	To Be Told	\$18.99		
	To Be Told – Workbook	\$11.99		
	Unbreakable Bonds	\$16.99		
	Why You Do the Things You Do	\$13.99		
	Wounded Heart	\$14.99		
	Wounded Heart - Workbook	\$15.99		
	Subtotal of Books	\$		
	Subtotal of Workbooks and AV from Reverse	\$		
	TOTAL DUE	\$		

#	Title	Amount	Taken	B/O
	22 Week Notebook - Binding The Wounds	\$25		
	22 Week Notebook in Spanish - Binding The Wounds	\$25		
	22 Week Small Group – Binding The Wounds – DVD + 2 Notebooks	\$249		
	22 Week Small Group in Spanish - BTW – DVD + 2 Notebooks	\$249		
	Belonging – CD	\$69		
	Binding The Wounds – CD – audio seminar	\$99		
	Binding The Wounds – DVD – video seminar	\$199		
	Connecting – CD	\$89		
	Created for Success – DVD – with 2 workbooks	\$199		
	Journey to NAI – facilitator copy	\$30		
	Journey to NAI – student copy	\$10		
	Passenger Lesson Guide DVD	\$149		
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	Mode Notebook	\$49		
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Life Renewal Institute
251 Stenton Avenue
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462



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