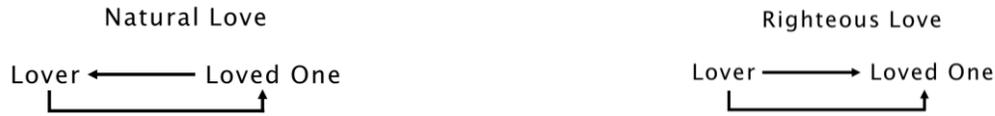




## Going Deeper into

### Matthew 1:18-25 – “A Spectacle of Love”

1. Pastor David contrasted the motivation behind “Natural Love” with the motivation driving “Righteous Love.” The below diagrams served to illustrate this contrast.



Focusing on the “Natural Love” diagram, think about someone you love. List some of the things about your loved one that causes you to love them. (Examples: he is a hard worker, she is kind, etc.)

Look at the reasons you shared, could you love a stranger for the same reasons? What are some flaws with this type of love?

Now compare the two diagrams, what is the difference between them? Thinking of that person above, what reasons do you have to love them based on the “Righteous Love” diagram?

Which of these types of love does God operate from? How confident would you be that God will continue to love you if his love is based on “Natural Love?” How confident would you be if God’s love is based on “Righteous Love?”

What evidence or Scripture verses could you share with someone to show them that God operates out of “Righteous Love,” and not in a way similar to “Natural Love?”

***Pray: Dear God, I thank you that you do not love me because of what I do or who I am, but because of who you are and what you have chosen to do. Help me to love others as you have loved me. Amen.***

2. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, and then reread Matthew 1:18-25 in light of 1 Corinthians 13.

How does Joseph embody love’s attributes of patience and kindness in Matthew 1:18-25?

We saw in the sermon how Joseph did not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoiced with the truth. How do you see Joseph bearing all things, believing all things, hoping all things, and enduring all things?

Think of someone in your life that you feel embodies godliness. Describe the ways they display the attributes of love found in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

In your own life, how do you live out some of these attributes of love from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7?

***Pray: Dear Lord, you have shown me how to love and have given me your Holy Spirit to guide me to live like you do. Help me to realize how I do love like you do, and to grow in your love. Amen.***

**3. Joseph felt as though he had been wronged when he first found out Mary was pregnant, but he exemplified righteous love towards her throughout the passage.**

What is your natural inclination when someone does something to you that is hurtful or offensive?

Read Romans 1:29-32. What are some behaviors and attitudes that are offensive to God?

Read Romans 5:7-8. What was God's ultimate response to people who had offended his glory and misrepresented him?

Joseph's reputation more than likely took a hit when he kept Mary as his wife. Describe a time when your loving action for someone else required sacrifice:

***Pray: Heavenly Father, you have shown your love for me through the sacrificial life and death of Jesus Christ. Thank you for redeeming me and calling me to live a life of sacrificial love toward you and my neighbors and enemies. Help me to show righteous love, even to those who hurt me. Amen.***