

**LOVE COMPLETELY**  
One Month To Live, Part 3  
May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011

A lot of relationships fall apart because it's so hard to get along with others

No one wants to leave this earth with unfinished business

To love completely we need the power of love

1 Corinthians 1:18 (NIV) "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

*Three Mountains to Climb in Order to Love People*

1. The Mountain of Misunderstanding

You must realize that differences of opinion are natural and inevitable parts of every relationship

2. The Mountain of "Me First"

It's human nature for me to want to meet my own needs before I meet other people's needs, but that creates a huge obstacle to overcome in relationships

3. The Mountain of Mistakes

A nger will not a kill a relationship, but bitterness will

Relationships aren't easy & take super natural help – God's power to love completely

*Biblical Strategies for Keeping Relational Mountains Small & Manageable*

1. The rope of acceptance

Romans 15:7 (NIV) "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."

To accept others means I stop trying to change them, and I try to understand them

Acceptance means you stop trying to change me and start cherishing me

Learn to value the differences in each other – they make life more exciting, interesting and fun

Genesis 2:25 (NIV) "The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame."

They felt the deepest human longing – to be totally accepted

In wanting acceptance usually we try to hide our faults

It is not natural to totally accept the people in my life; what's natural is to try to change the people in my life and make them more like me

2. Gain traction with loving actions

## Consideration

Philippians 2:4 (GN) "And look out for one another's interests, not just your own."

Look to meet the needs of others before you meet your own

Too often we love conditionally

## Cooperation

John 13:1 (NIV) "It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He now showed them the full extent of His love."

Jesus showed His love by servicing them

Too often in a relationship instead of cooperating, we compete with each other

## Commitment

Philippians 2:13 (NLT) "For God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey Him and the power to do what pleases Him."

### 3. Tethered by forgiveness

Colossians 3:13 (NCV) "Get along with each other, and forgive each other. If someone does wrong to you, forgive that person because the Lord forgave you."

You will never have to forgive anyone more than Christ has already forgiven you – that helps me forgive others

"The problem for many couples is they just have an incorrect concept of what marriage really is." John Ortberg

Marriage is like having a box of broken pieces & parts – we usually call it incompatibility

Our challenge is to take those pieces & parts & with God's help, together build something incredible - that will only increase in value over time

1 John 3:16 (NIV) "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."

We are impacting Chula Vista as we demonstrate God's love by servicing in little ways

New Hope is a church of imperfect people who don't have it all together, but we're going in the right direction

We feel we can accomplish little by ourselves; but when we come together as a church, we can change our community and our world

### *My Next Step Today*

- I'm new to the church, but I still want to participate in the One Month to Live spiritual growth campaign, please contact me with information
- There is someone in my life I need to accept instead of trying to change
- There is someone in my life I need to show loving actions toward
- There is someone in my life I need to forgive
- I/we will attend the Meet the Pastors Meal on Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 12:45 PM