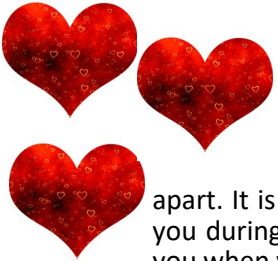


# Spreading the **WORD** Ministry

## True Love



When most people hear the word *love*, their minds drift to the early days of romance, fluttering hearts, long conversations, and the excitement of being chosen. Those moments are precious gifts, but they are not the whole story. Real love, the kind that endures, rarely looks like a movie scene. It is quieter, deeper, and is forged in the fires of life's hardest moments.

Spousal love, at its best, is not defined by butterflies or candlelit dinners. It is defined by presence. It is the spouse who sits beside you in a hospital waiting room when your world is falling apart. It is the one who holds your hand as you say goodbye to a parent. It is the one who stands beside you during childbirth, witnessing both your strength and your vulnerability. It is the one who helps bathe you when you are too sick to stand, who sees you at your weakest and does not turn away.

This kind of love is not glamorous. It is not Instagram-worthy. It is not always easy. But it is holy. It is ordained by God himself.

Real love is a choice it is choosing to stay when life gets messy, choosing to forgive when feelings fluctuate, and choosing to show up when everything in you wants to run. It means choosing to honor vows made on a joyful day even when the days that follow are heavy with grief, uncertainty. It is choosing to be a husband who is to spiritual leader of the home, loving his wife as Christ loved the Church. It is choosing to be the virtuous woman found in Proverbs 31.

Spousal love is a living picture of a covenant between two imperfect people choosing each other again and again, not because it is convenient, but because it is right. In this way, it reflects something far greater: the LOVE OF CHRIST.

If human love is a flickering candle, Christ love is the sun—steady unchanging, and powerful enough to give all who come near it. The **WORD** tells us that God did not love us from a distance. He did not remain in the perfection and splendor of heaven while we struggled in the brokenness of earth. Instead he came down, He sent His Son to walk among us to feel what we feel, to experience the weight of temptation and human frailty.

Hebrews 4:15 reminds us, *“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”* Christ did not love us from a distance He stepped into our world so He could step into our pain.

During His earthly ministry, Jesus showed love in ways that mirror the deepest acts of spousal devotion:



**He was present in grief.** When Lazarus died, Jesus didn't rush past the sorrow. *“Jesus wept”* (John 11:35). He entered the grief of those He loved.

**He touched the untouchable.** He laid His hands on lepers (Mark 1:41), the very people society avoided. He moved toward the broken, not away from them.

**He fed the hungry and healed the sick.** His love was practical, compassionate, and attentive to human needs,

**He forgave freely.** To the woman caught in adultery, He offered mercy instead of condemnation (John 8:11).

**He served.** In John 6 He feed 5,000 with five loaves and 2 fishes,. Love serves.

And then, in the greatest act of love the world has ever known, Christ GAVE His life.

Romans 5:8 declares, *“But God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ*



*died for us.”* He didn't wait for us to be worthy. He didn't wait for us to love Him back. He chose us in our mess, in our rebellion, in our weakness. Spousal love may help bathe you when you are too sick to stand, but Christ's love washes your soul when you are too sinful to save yourself.

There is also a beautiful parallel between the love we experience in marriage and the love Christ offers His people.

**Both require sacrifice.** A strong marriage demands daily dying to self—preferences, pride, and convenience. Christ's love required the ultimate sacrifice: His life.

**Both are covenantal.** Marriage vows echo God's covenant with His people: *“I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee”* (Hebrews 13:5).

**Both are proven in presence.** A spouse shows love by staying close in sickness, sorrow, and uncertainty. Christ shows love by promising, *“Lo, I am with you always”* (Matthew 28:20).

**Both see the worst and love anyway.** A spouse sees your flaws up close. Christ sees your sin completely. Yet both choose to love. Marriage is not meant to replace Christ's love, but to reflect it. It is a living parable, a daily reminder that love is not a feeling—it is faithfulness. As beautiful as spousal love is, it is still human. It is limited. It is imperfect. Even the best spouse will fail, misunderstand, or fall short at times. Christ never does.

**A spouse** can walk with you through death, but Christ conquered death.

**A spouse** can comfort you in sorrow, but Christ can redeem your sorrow.

**A spouse** can love you deeply, but Christ loves you perfectly.

**A spouse** can hold your hand, but Christ holds your soul.

**Human love** is a gift. Christ's love is eternal, it will last forever.

**Human love** can steady your steps. Christ's love can transform your heart.

**Human love** can walk beside you. Christ's love can carry you.



If we want our marriages to endure, we must anchor them in the love of Christ. Feelings will rise and fall. Seasons will shift. Hard days will come. But love rooted in Christ remains. Let us love our spouses with the same humility, compassion, and steadfastness Christ has shown us. Let us show up in the grief, in the mess, in the uncertainty. Let us choose each other daily, just as Christ has chosen us eternally. Because the greatest love stories are not written in ease, they are written in endurance. And the greatest example of love is not found in a romance novel, but on a rugged cross where **Love Himself** laid down his life.

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# The Pursuit of Ultimate Love

Christopher Kolker MD

Twelve-year-old Jenny broke her arm right before volleyball season. “I swear I’ll do anything if you let my arm heal before the first game,” she promised God as she knelt by her bed, cast fully signed on her right wrist.

Jenny had her first taste of faith. Her injury brought her to pleading, and, looking back, it felt a lot like pleading with Santa Claus to get what you want on Christmas morning. But even so, it was a start.

Jenny goes off to college. Everything is so new. School is hard, and nobody seems to care whether she lives or dies. After spending yet another evening in her dorm room alone, crying, she pleads, “God, help me understand this. Give me some purpose. I don’t want to feel this way anymore.”

With time, Jenny finds a Christian youth group. She adapts to college life, and the classes become easier. Jenny’s faith takes a step forward. Sure, it is still selfish. It comes in despair, when her feelings threaten to quash her. But still, she has a more profound feeling for her Lord than she did before.

As Jenny matures, she studies the word of God. She sees it as a profound truth and reflects on how those truths play out in society, among her friends and neighbors, and, most importantly, in herself. It makes sense. “God, I know you must be there. All of this did not happen by accident. You must be the Great Creator.”

Jenny’s faith is now more thoughtful than ever, but she’s not done yet.

Jenny leads a devout life. She prays daily until her relationship with Christ overtakes her. Even with her family demands, she effortlessly drifts into prayer and contemplation.

Jenny feels the Lord’s presence constantly. She has everything; she asks for nothing. It doesn’t have to make sense. Love surrounds her and emanates from her. No thought, no reason, just Christ’s love.

Jenny has led a life towards a more perfect love: to see Him more clearly, love Him more dearly, and to follow Him more clearly. To love so completely as to lay one’s life down for her friends. (John 15:13 and 1John 3:16)

As you think about Valentine’s Day, reflect on real love. Are you in love with God? Can you feel what Jenny feels? If not, pray for guidance, perseverance, and union with Christ. Her dorm room alone, crying, she pleads, “God, help me understand this. Give me some purpose. I don’t want to feel this way anymore.”

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## stwm.online On The Air

One of the greatest joys of Spreading the **WORD** Ministry has always been the privilege of sharing God’s truth with a world that desperately needs His love. For decades, Bro. Buck Nicholson faithfully proclaimed the Gospel with clarity, compassion, and conviction. Today, that same message continues to go forth—strong, steady, and Spirit led—through more than 50 radio stations across the country. And now, accessing those broadcasts has never been simpler.

When you visit **stwm.online**, you’ll notice a new feature at the top of the homepage labeled

“On the Air.” This section is designed to help you easily find when and where Bro. Buck’s messages are being broadcast. With just a few clicks, you can choose the day of the week and browse through the list of nearly 50 stations that carry the program. Once you find the station and time that works best for you, simply tune in, a few of the radio broadcast will have a screen for you to enter information. Do not be afraid to share your information with them, they are reputable and are a trusted site. Hit play, turn the volume up and sit back, to enjoy as Bro. Buck presents the **WORD** with the same heartfelt passion that has touched lives for generations.

This ministry has always been rooted in love, God’s love for us, and our love for others. Scripture reminds us, “We love him, because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19). That foundational truth shaped every message Bro. Buck preached. Whether he was teaching from the Gospels, encouraging believers, or calling the lost to salvation, his voice carried the unmistakable tone of Christlike love.

Jesus Himself said, “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” (John 13:35). That kind of love is more than emotion, it is action. It is the willingness to share the Gospel, to reach out to the hurting, to speak truth with grace, and to shine the light of Christ in a dark world. Every broadcast, every newsletter, every outreach effort of this ministry is an extension of that calling.

As you listen to Bro. Buck’s messages online or through one of our radio partners, you’ll hear that same heartbeat. His teaching consistently pointed listeners back to the love of God demonstrated through Jesus Christ. “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). That is the message that changes lives. That is the message we are committed to sharing.

We encourage you to explore the **On the Air** section at **stwm.online** and discover the many opportunities to tune in throughout the week. Share the link with friends, family, and anyone who could use a word of hope. The Gospel is still the power of God unto salvation, and every broadcast is another chance for someone to hear the truth that transformed Bro. Buck’s life—and ours.



*For God so loved the world that HE gave HIS  
only Son, that whoever believes in HIM  
shall not perish but have eternal life.*

