

Redeeming Marriage



Love Never Fails: The Heart of Christian Marriage

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

¹ If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.



1 Corinthians 13:4-7

⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant
⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶
it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears
all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.



1 Corinthians 13:8-13

⁸ Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.



1 Corinthians 13:8-13

¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.



Outline

1. The Supremacy of Love
2. The Character of Love
3. The Permanence of Love
4. The Embodiment of Love



1. The Supremacy of Love

1 Corinthians 13:1-3



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1. The Supremacy of Love

How Scripture attests to the supremacy of love:

- ❖ Love is the fulfillment of the law (Matt 22:37-40 Rom. 13:8-10)
- ❖ Love is the first quality listed as a fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22)
- ❖ Love is the badge of discipleship (John 13:35)
- ❖ Love is the greatest of all the virtues (1 Corinthians 13:13)

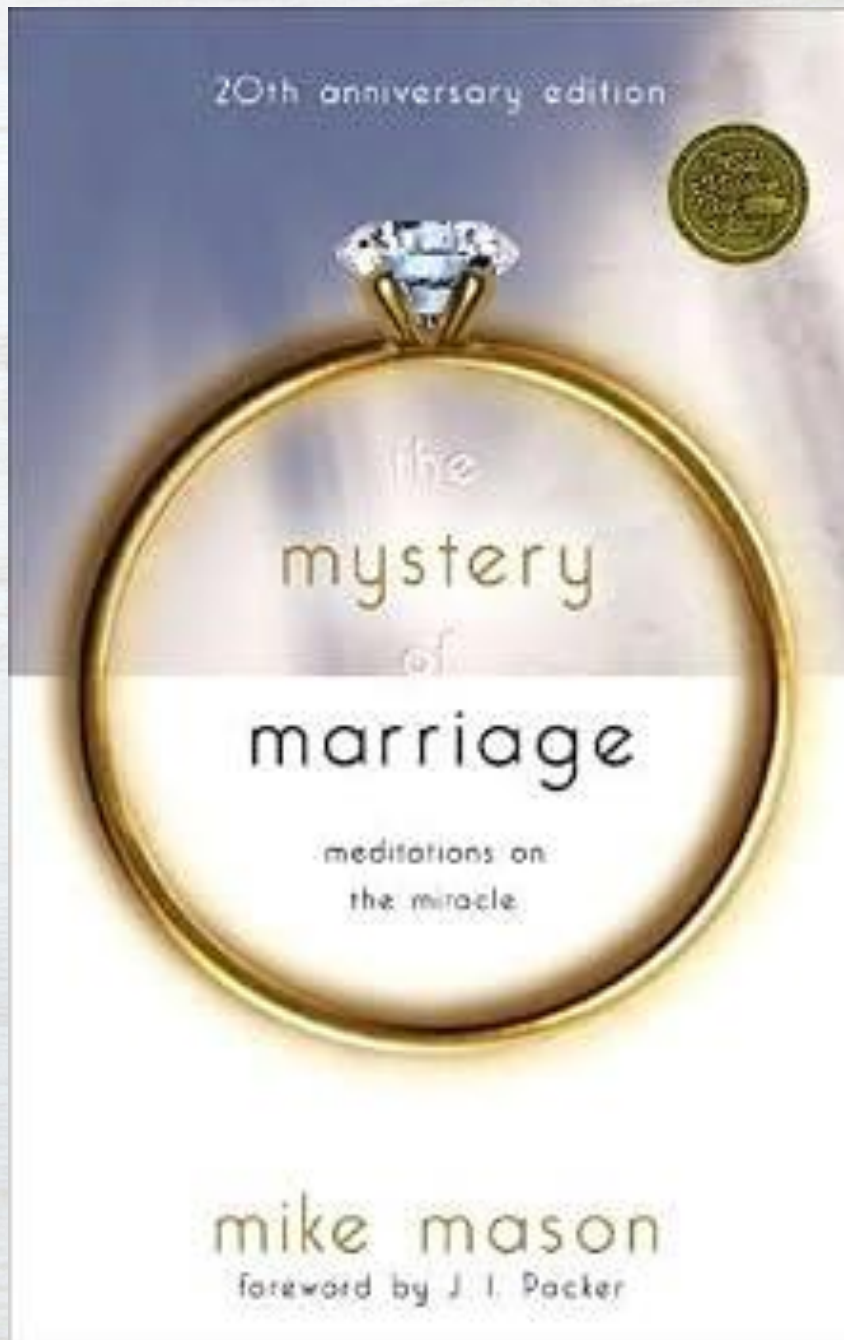


1. The Supremacy of Love

Application:

- ❖ Positively: love is the heart and soul of all God requires of us.
- ❖ Negatively: every sin we ever commit is a violation, distortion, or lack of love.





Are there problems in marriage? Every one of them results from the partners trying desperately to renege, however subconsciously or surreptitiously on a choice they have already made, a choice to which they have been led by love

Marriage involves nothing more than a lifelong commitment to love just one person – to do, whatever else one does, a good, thorough job of loving one person.



2. The Character of Love

1 Corinthians 13:4-7



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2. The Character of Love

The active character of love:

- ❖ Paul describes love with sixteen different verbs — love is dynamic and active, not just a feeling.



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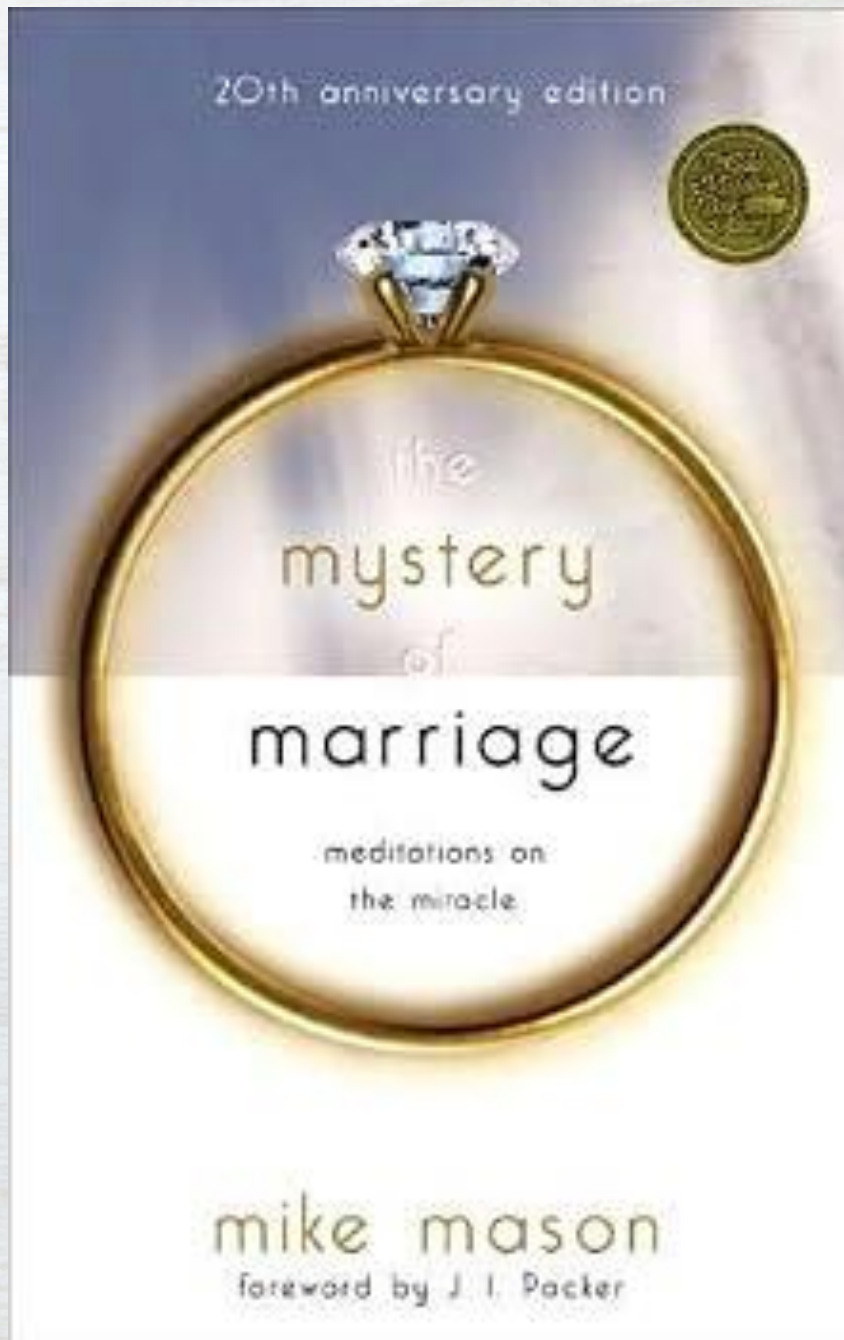
The active character of love:

❖ Paul describes love with sixteen different verbs — love is dynamic and active, not just a feeling.

❖ *“Of love there be two principal offices, one to give, another to forgive.” —John*

Boys





Marriage comes with a built-in abhorrence of self-centeredness. In the dream world of mankind's complacent separateness, amidst all our pleasant little fantasies of omnipotence and blamelessness and self-sufficiency, marriage explodes like a bomb. It runs an aggravating interference pattern, an unrelenting guerrilla warfare against selfishness.



2. The Character of Love

Application: Symptoms of selfishness

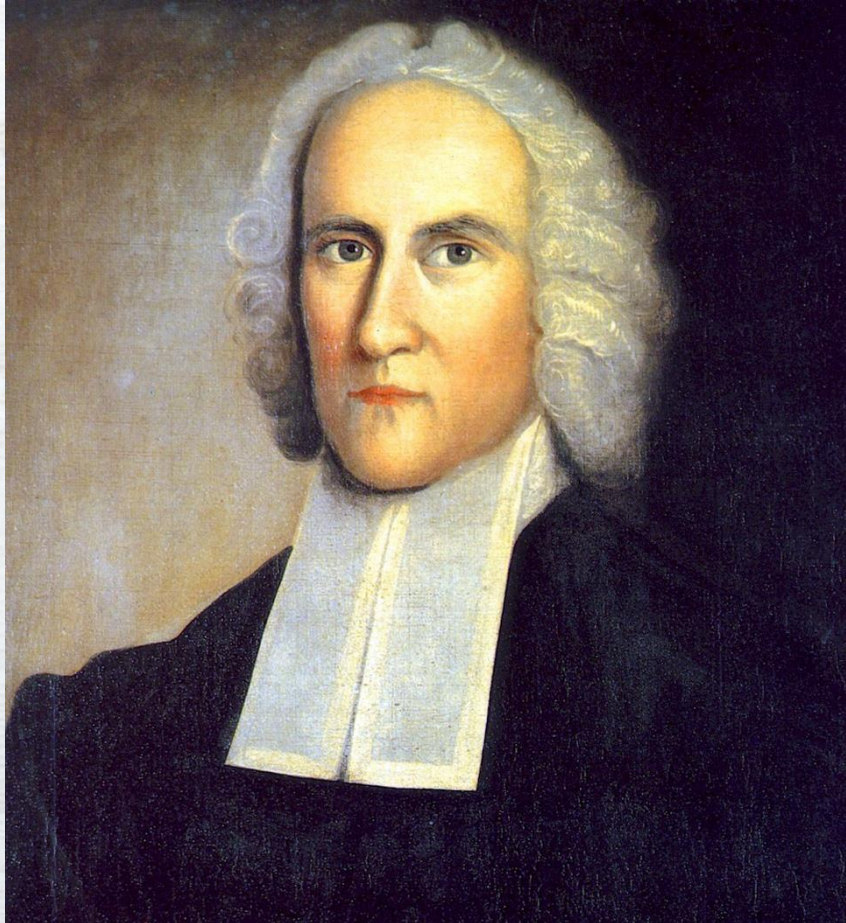
- ❖ Dominating conversations
- ❖ Inordinate anger
- ❖ Slowness to admit mistakes
- ❖ Lacking empathy
- ❖ Inflexible
- ❖ Easily offended



3. The Permanence of Love

1 Corinthians 13:8-13





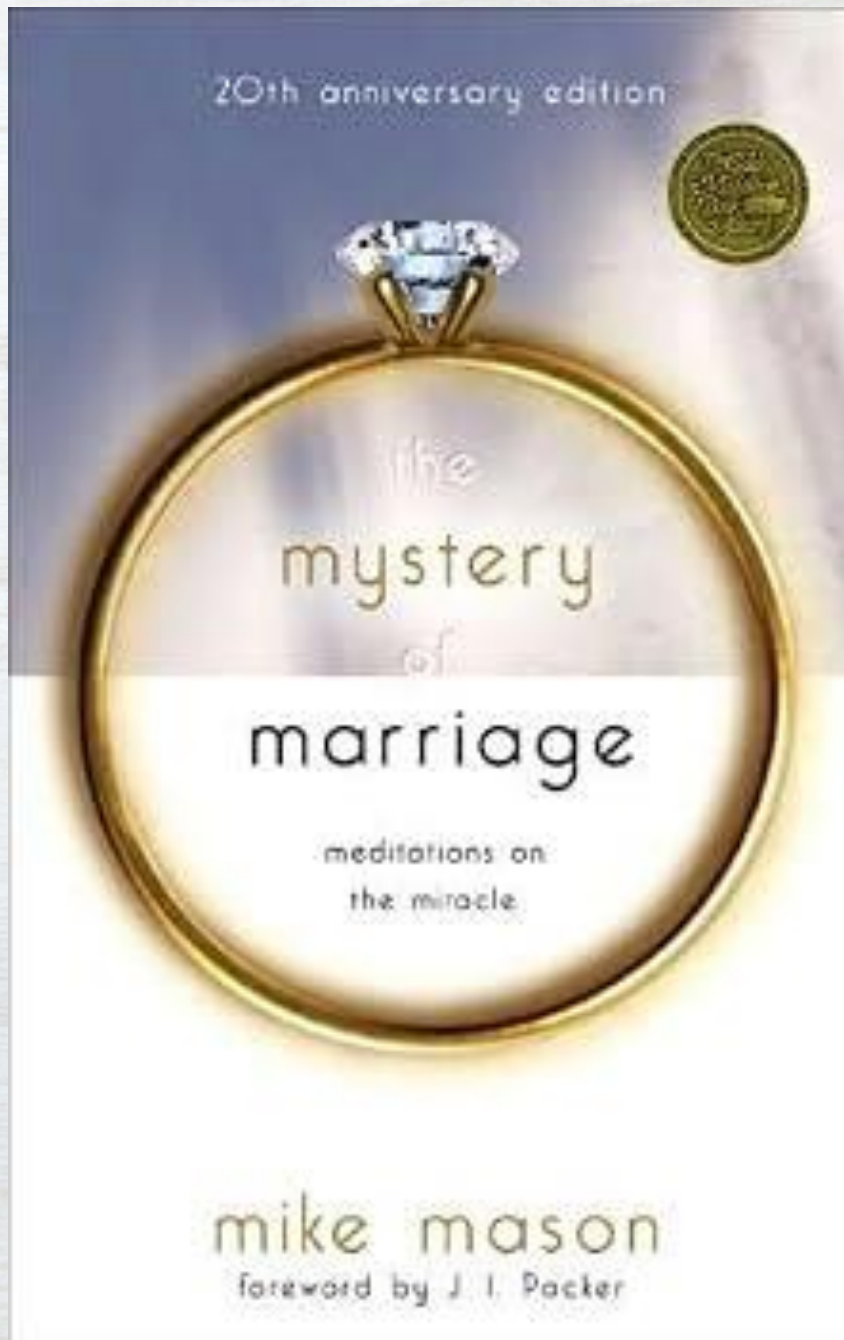
Having no pride or selfishness... their hearts shall be full of love . . .

The soul which only had a little spark of divine love... shall be... wholly turned into love... like the sun... wholly a bright, ardent flame.

—Jonathan Edwards

“Heaven is a World of Love”





*Considering the rich imagery of weddings and marriage throughout the Bible, it seems more probable that... Heaven will be **all** marriage... Christian marital love is... as close as we are likely to experience to being a piece of Heaven on earth.*



4. The Embodiment of Love

1 Corinthians 13



4. The Embodiment of Love

Jesus is love personified

- ❖ He is patient with sinners. He is kind to the undeserving.
- ❖ He is humble, gentle, and self-giving.
- ❖ He bore our sins, endured the cross, and loved us to the very end.
- ❖ *“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son.” (1*

John 4:10)



4. The Embodiment of Love

How Did Jesus Love Us?

- ❖ When we were not lovable: *Romans 5:6–8* — *Christ died for us while we were still sinners.*
- ❖ By making our interests His own: *Philippians 2:3–8* — *He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant.*
- ❖ Sacrificially, at great cost to Himself: *Ephesians 5:1–2, 25–30* — *He gave himself up for us.*



4. The Embodiment of Love

1 Corinthians 13



Summary

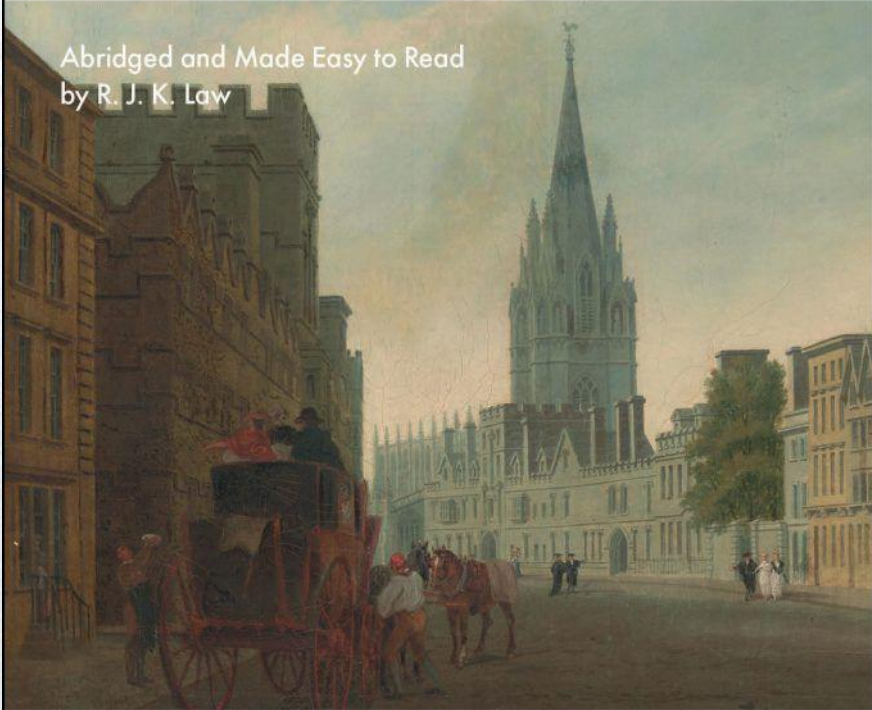
1. The Supremacy of Love
2. The Character of Love
3. The Permanence of Love
4. The Embodiment of Love in Christ



Communion with God

John Owen

Abridged and Made Easy to Read
by R. J. K. Law



PURITAN  PAPERBACKS

A man may love another as his own soul, yet perhaps that love of his cannot help him... We cannot love grace into a child, nor mercy into a friend... But now the love of Christ, being the love of God, is effectual and fruitful... He loves life, grace, and holiness into us... he loves us into covenant, loves us into heaven.

