

When People are Big

And God is Small



“I’ll never fall in love again”



The principle of the universe—love



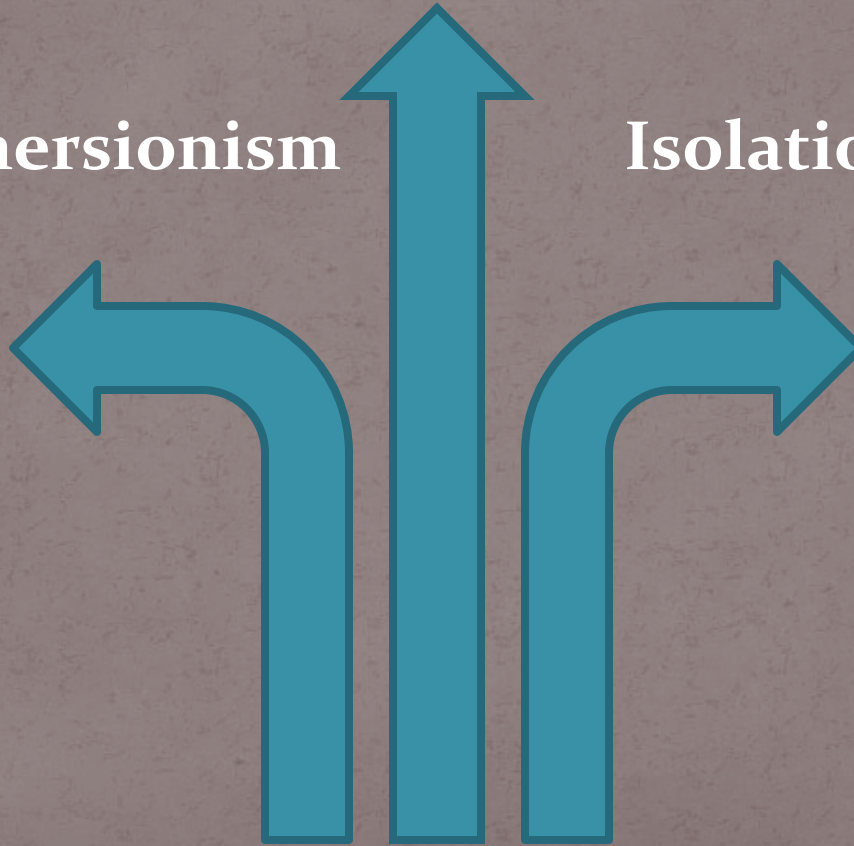
Education, p. 154

“Unselfishness, the principle of God's kingdom, is the principle that Satan hates; its very existence he denies.”

Looking unto Jesus

Immersionism

Isolationism



Proverbs 29:25

“The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.”

“It is dangerous to be concerned with what others think of you, but if you trust the LORD, you are safe.” Good News Bible

What are signs of the fear of man?

- Susceptibility to peer pressure
- People-pleasing
- Over-consciousness of appearance
- Need-based relationships
- Fear of exposure/vulnerability
- Worrying about what people think of you
- Being easily embarrassed
- Telling “little white lies”
- Jealousy
- Shyness/avoiding people
- Need to impress others, name-dropping, etc.

Relationships: A Mess Worth Making, p. 11

“We settle for the satisfaction of human relationships when they were meant to point us to the perfect relational satisfaction found only with God. The irony is that when we reverse the order and elevate creation above Creator, we destroy the relationships God intended—and would have enabled—us to enjoy.”

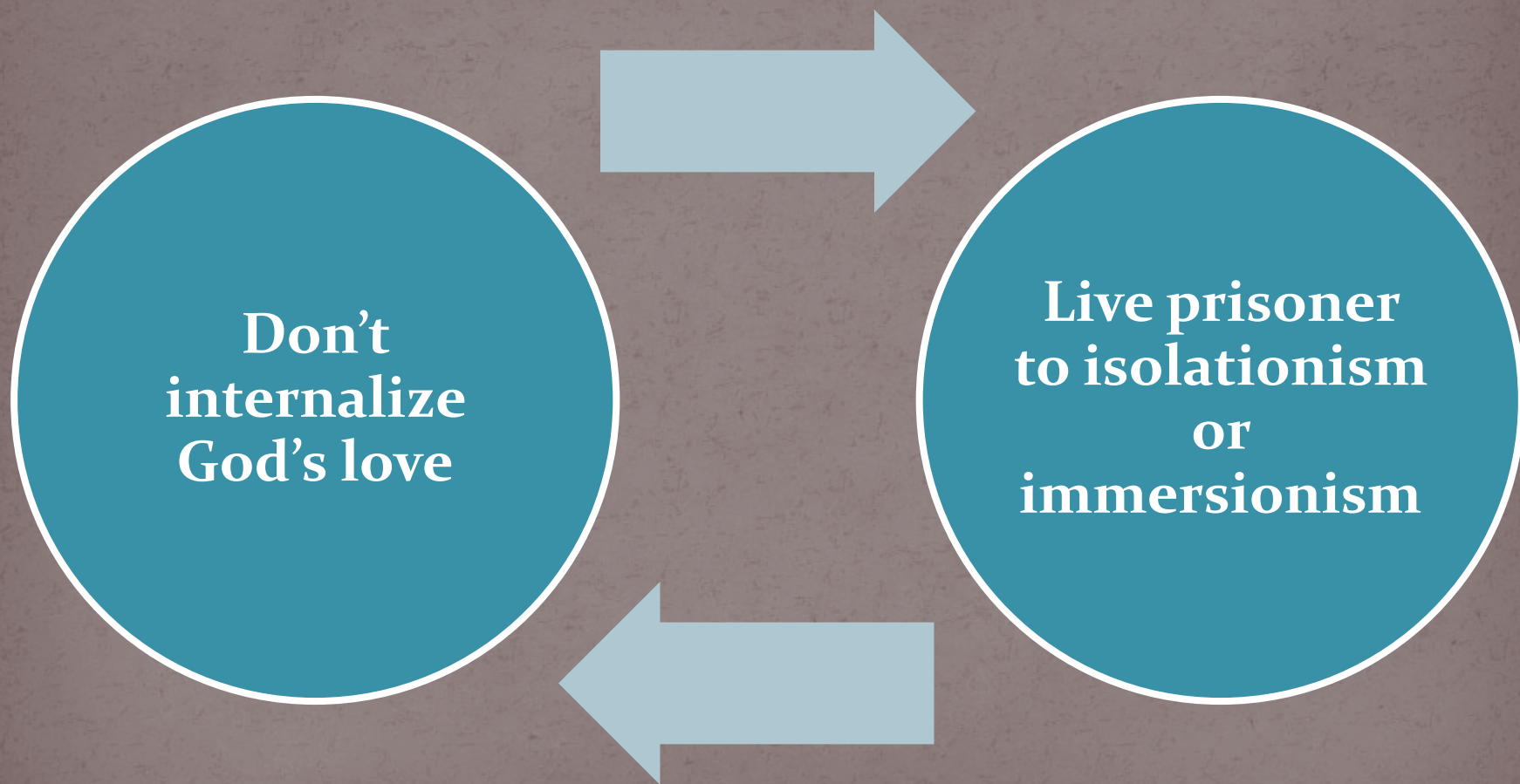
John 12:42, 43

“For they loved praise from men more than praise from God.”

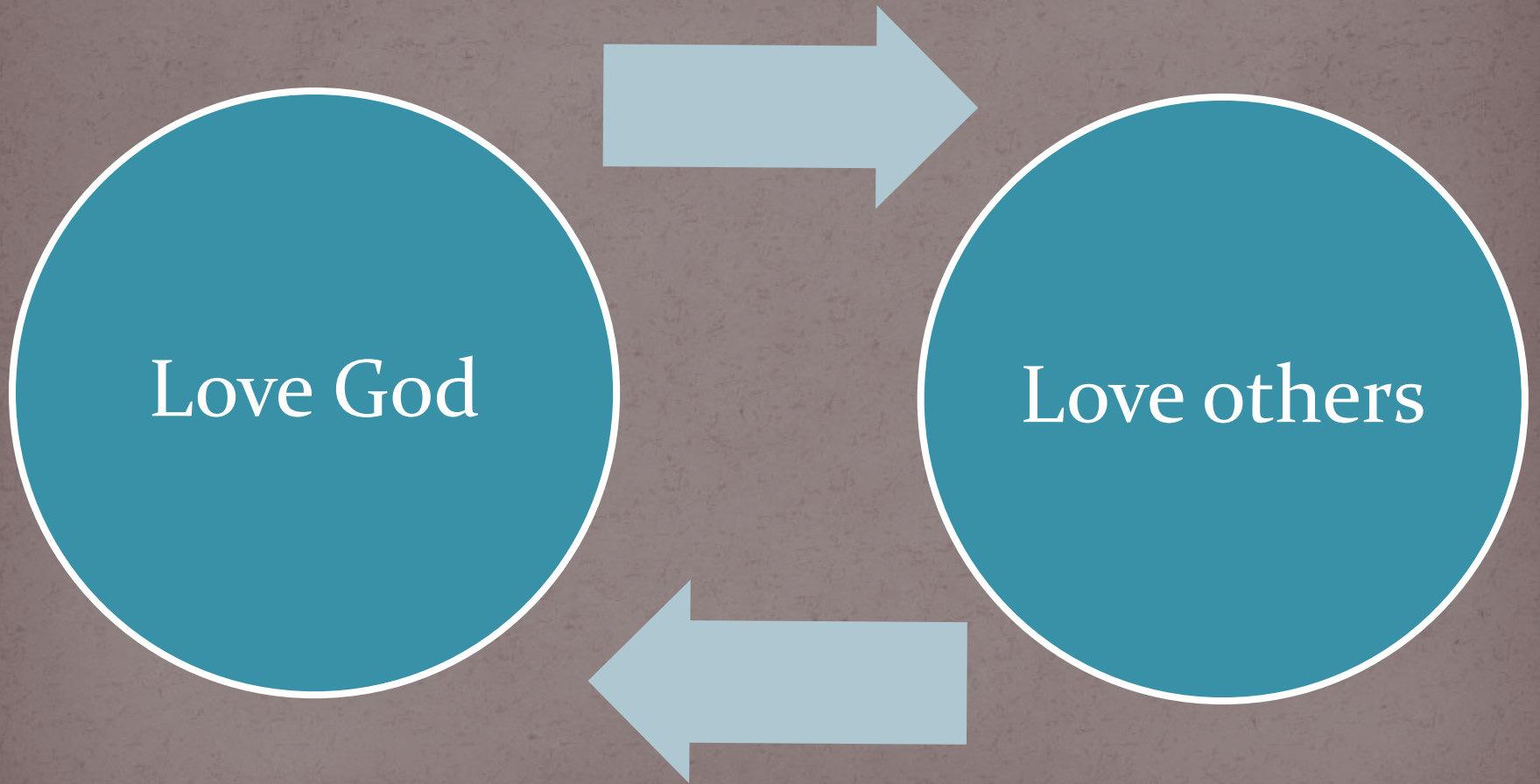
John 2:23-25

“But Jesus did not *commit Himself unto* [trust; depend upon] them, because He knew all men, and needed not that any should testify of man: for He knew what was in man.”

The cycle of death unto death



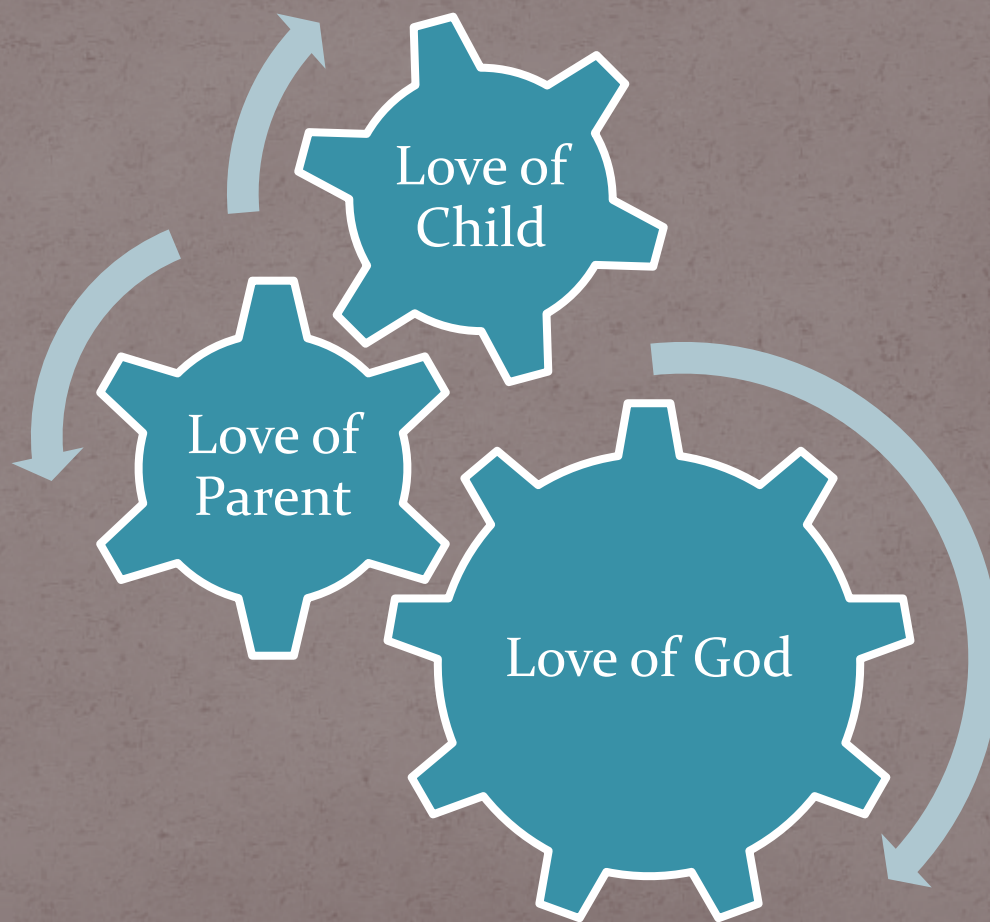
The cycle of life unto life



Why do we get trapped in these cycles?

- **Our own sinful hearts**
- **Sinful worldly influences**
- **Others' sins against us**

God's design for the family





Psalm 27:10

“When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up.”

Relationships: A Mess Worth Making, p. 7

“Our family of origin is just one of many influences on our view of relationships. You have not become who you are all by yourself, which is why relationships are so important. They are inescapable and powerfully influential. The difficulty is that sin and grace coexist in all of them.”

Who has your heart?

“Whatever rules the heart will exercise inescapable influence over the person’s life and behavior.” *Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands*, p. 68

“Sin is much more than doing the wrong thing. It begins with loving, worshiping, and serving the wrong thing.” *Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands*, p. 67





“All experiences of the fear of man share at least one common feature: people are big. They have grown to idolatrous proportions in our lives. They control us. Since there is no room in our hearts to worship both God and people, whenever people are big, God is not. Therefore, the first task in escaping the snare of the fear of man is to know that *God* is awesome and glorious, not other people.” *When People are Big and God is Small*, p.

When People are Big and God is Small, p. 85

“When God and spirituality are reduced to our standards or our feelings, God will never be to us the awesome Holy One of Israel. With God reduced in our eyes, a fear of people will thrive.”

When People are Big and God is Small,
pp. 107, 108

“A growing knowledge of God displaces the fear of people, and it casts out our tendency to be casual with our secret sins. And the good news is that it can be learned...You must simply be a person who prays and seeks after this great gift.”