

**Courageous Hearts**  
**“With All My Heart, I Will Love you”**  
**Session Nine**  
**“Truth? Lies? Counterfeits?”**

*“Test me, O Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind, for your love is ever before me, and I walk continually in your truth.” Psalms 26:2-3*

**Review:** A stronghold can be created through events that are true, imagined events, or events where facts get distorted. It really isn't important how the stronghold was formed. It is important, however, what you will do with the stronghold that is in your heart. Will you hang on to it and become driven, controlling, angry, and bitter? Or will you bring it to Jesus, ask Him to remove it from the enemy's influence and then give it to Jesus for His control.

When you are unwilling to forgive someone, it's like you drinking a whole bottle of poison and expecting the other person to die.

When God created us in His image, His desire was that man reflect His character and His heart in every way. We are to be honest because God is honest. We are to love because God loves, etc. God's Word reveals His heart. There are two main facets of God's heart.

1. **Love:** God loves us. We are to love God with all our heart and we are to love others.
2. **Trust:** Proverbs 3:5-6, Jn. 14:21 We are to obey God and depend on Him one hundred percent.

How do we focus on God instead of our problems?

If our heart mirrors God's heart in thoughts, actions, attitude, deeds and love then others will be drawn to us and feel loved. Our mind, will and emotions need to be engaged and lined up with God's heart.

Counterfeits do not mirror God's Heart. Counterfeits cause isolation. Isolation is the goal of the enemy. Just like the layers of an onion, the enemy uses strongholds, flesh patterns, distractions and now counterfeits to cause relationships to move toward isolation. People will not feel loved when counterfeits are used.

What do counterfeits look like?

1. They look good and acceptable. They look like the right thing to do and often fit into the rules of the household or whatever the situation.
2. Using a counterfeit seems to be a common sense way to resolve a problem where we often see the wisdom and value in our actions.
3. Counterfeits often look very good and will get you praise from friends. Someone using counterfeits will receive all the attention.

**Counterfeits:**

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| • Defend yourself      | • blame others         |
| • criticize others     | • punish               |
| • argue                | • correct              |
| • lecture              | • accuse               |
| • control              | • shame                |
| • fix the problem      | • prove yourself right |
| • justify your actions | • keep a list          |

These will cause isolation.

**Love:** (a good example in the video was where conflict was resolved around the picnic table)

- listens
- shares
- talks with someone
- forgives
- extends grace
- understands
- encourages
- is humble

Love draws others into a close relationship. It heals, changes things, encourages and accepts. Everyone feels loved.

Love creates a safe place to develop close, loving, open, honest relationships. Counterfeits will get you just the opposite of what you want; anger, bitterness, resentment, closed communication and eventually isolation.

The process of going from counterfeits to love is to line up our mind, our will, and our emotions with God and let the Holy Spirit do it all. Jesus did not leave us alone. We have a teacher, a comforter, and a helper in the Holy Spirit. He will do it all for us if we allow Him.

### **Courageous Hearts Assignment:**

Ask yourself these questions:

1. Do I use some of these counterfeits in my relationships? What do those relationships look like? Are we enjoying close relationships with open communication or has isolation set in?
2. Am I willing to ask God to reveal the active counterfeits in my life so that I can allow God to restore all my relationships?
3. Are there things in my life that are preventing me from obeying God, depending on Him 100% and loving Him with all my heart?

### **Group Discussion**

1. How the Jeep encounter different than the picnic-table experience?
2. What was the desired outcome in both encounters? Which one mirrored God's heart?
3. How can we tell the difference between a counterfeit and true love?