



## Meeting Notes: Truth About Love (May 15 52013)

I was on vacation; therefore, we did not meet on May 8, 2013. These notes capture our May 15, 2013 meeting. We opened our meeting in prayer and then began our evening. Topic notes may not be in the order discussed during group, and they are not intended to cover everything discussed. They are intended as highlights to capture the essence of our evening. General notes follow each topic that was discussed. Documents used or created during this meeting are attached

### TOPICS DISCUSSED:

#### Closing the Loop:

- **Difference in the loin belt and the loin cloth:**
  - **Clarifying the loincloth and the loin belt.** Last week, there was some confusion in my mind about what the loin belt looked like. After someone asked to see a picture of the belt, I found myself a bit perplexed, because for some reason, I was thinking the loincloth and the loin belt were one piece that covered the entire "productive region." However, in doing some research, I discovered the belt and the cloth are two different things. As I was trying to figure out what the loincloth was, my thoughts turned to "**girt** up your loins with truth." The word "girt" kept ringing in my ears, so I went back to the original verse: "Stand therefore, having your loins **girt about** with truth. That word "about" kept resonating with me for some reason.
  - **What research revealed.** In trying to find a picture of a loincloth, I ran across a helpful website; the information from the website is attached. The most important thing I learned is the loincloth could just be a flap, which better explained the picture in Rick Renner's book, *Dressed to Kill*, or it could be a full covering. As I began pondering the different types of loincloths (from mere flap to full covering), the visual image that formed in my mind likened the belt to the "logos" Word and the loincloth to the "rhema" Word. For those who don't know, *logos* is the written Word of God, and *rhema* is those "ah ha" moments when the Holy Spirit reveals something to us.
  - **Takeaway.** The more *logos* Word, the thicker and stronger the belt, and the more that *logos* Word becomes *rhema* in our life, the more the loincloth develops from being a mere flap to becoming a full covering.

- **Difference in logos and rhema word:**
  - **God's timing not ours.** In discussing the difference in *logos* and *rhema* word, we discussed a recent example of how the Holy Spirit illuminated the importance of not doubting when we pray. As can often happen, we can read a verse time and again, but then one day, the light goes on and the verse takes on an entirely different meaning that only the Holy Spirit could have revealed!
  - **Takeaway.** If you read something you don't understand (or can't apply), give it time; in God's timing, the Holy Spirit will turn that *logos* word into *rhema* and that's when we will truly "get it."

### Memory Verse:

- **Update.** We're still having a few challenges with actually memorizing **Psalm 33:4**, but for the most part, we seem to get it. However, one of the things that really stood out is part of the New Living Translation (NLT) that says, "we can trust everything he does." The word "does" indicates action; therefore, not only can we trust what He says, we can trust what He does, including when He tells us to do something that may not make sense to us. **Takeaway:** We can trust God ... no matter what the circumstances look like!

### Discussion Topic – Truth About Love

- **General discussion:**
  - **Do you know God loves you?**
    - **One reason we struggle.** One of the things I am discovering is when we are really struggling with something, it is often because we do not understand God's love for us. As a result, we find ourselves not trusting God, because we don't know in the depths of our heart that God has us!
    - **Answering the question.** In asking ourselves, "Do we know God loves us?," we found some of us know, some of us are in the process of knowing, and some of us know what we have to do to get there!
    - **Roadblocks.** A major roadblock to us knowing God loves is rejection. Just as Jesus was rejected by His own, we can expect to be rejected by others. There was SO VERY much more to this discussion, but a compilation of all we learned helped us understand how we let things affect us truly is up to us. Once we know God's love for us, it changes our perspective, which changes how we react. Knowing anything we deal with is rooted in a lie helps us realize we can choose to believe the lie or not. If we know

God loves us, the truth of His Word overcomes the lie.

- **Takeaway.** We deal with things like rejection, because we have chosen to believe the lie! Hopefully, as we complete the Renewing Our Mind exercise, we will be able to uproot many of the lies that have kept us bound.
- **How do you view yourself?** We discussed how we can feel like we don't deserve God's love. That feeling of being undeserving comes from the guilt and shame we carry from the decisions we've made in our lives. However, once we confess our sins, He forgives, cleanses, and separates us from the sin. It also helps when our confession is coupled with true repentance, which means a change in action! Therefore, if God has forgiven us, we should forgive ourselves. One way to forgive ourselves is to understand God is paying attention to us and knows everything about us! If He knew us before He formed us in our mother's womb, then we have to be enough! Another way to forgive ourselves is to understand that God's plan for us may not look like our plan for us. **Takeaway.** Forgive ourselves for the decisions we've made, realizing each decision took us down a path that eventually drew us closer to God.
- **From where do we learn love?** In understanding God's love, we learned God is the one who is ultimately responsible for teaching us about love—not our parents, husbands, children, friends, or anyone else! We should never base God's love for us on how other people treat us. In reality, when we truly understand God's love for us, it affects how we treat others! **Takeaway** from this is one we've discussed many times before: it really is all about us and our relationship with God, because we truly do not wrestle against flesh and blood!
- **Scripture references:**
  - **John 3:16.** We took this verse and made it personal ... *"For God so loved [me] that He gave His only begotten son (only-born) Son, that since [I] believe in Him, [I] shall not perish, but [I will] have everlasting life."* When discussing this verse, I shared Jesus being on the Cross reminded me of the Garden of Eden. While I was looking up the loincloth, I discovered Jesus was most likely crucified naked, as was Roman custom. The FIRST Adam began in the Garden of Eden "naked and not ashamed" (Genesis 2:25) before the Lord. Once sin entered the world, he covered himself. The LAST Adam's earthly ministry ended at Calvary with Him uncovered, "naked and not ashamed," that our sins might be forgiven. Even now that correlation takes me into God's Presence!
  - **Romans 8:31-39:** There's a lot to these verses, but we highlighted two specific portions: verse 35 and verses 38-39. The long and short of it is ... **DON'T LET ANYTHING SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD!**

- **Takeaway:** God proved His love for us once and for all at Calvary; it's now up to us to not let anything separate us from that love!
- **Summing up not being separated from God's love:**
  - **Overcoming barriers.** We identified several barriers that cause us to feel separated from God's love. For example, we view God's love through the filter of how others treat us. For instance, as a child we may look at authorities in our lives, especially our parents, and think, "adults should know better, and they should love me." As we grow older we think since other people are mistreating us, God must not love us. What we don't realize is people behave in a certain way, but we perceive how they behave as their treatment of us, when in reality, how they behave has nothing to do with us. Not sure if I got this upcoming quote right, but it goes something like, "people can only treat us how we perceive they are treating us." After all, does not our perception of how others treat us create conflict? Moving on to later in life, when we get married and/or have a family, we can expect God to prove His love for us through our husband and/or our children. We say, "If God really loved me, my family would not treat me like this." What we should recognize is when people behave towards us in a certain way and it hurts, it's our filter (our perception) that creates the hurt. However, the filter of His love changes our perception. Thus, when we truly know God's love for us, we can rebuild the foundation of our lives on the wisdom of His love. As a result, we can forgive others, because we no longer judge them by our perception of how they are treating us; instead we seek to be vessels of God's love towards them rather than expecting them to be vessels of His love towards us.
  - **First takeaway.** Realize God's love for us has absolutely nothing to do with how other people treat us!
  - **Second takeaway.** If we put ourselves into the Scriptures and make them personal, it helps us remove other people from the situation. In other words, be accountable to God and His Word for our behavior rather than focusing on the situation or the people involved.

### **Renewing Our Minds Exercise:**

- **Lessons learned.** Several of us have completed our prayers. However, I think I learn something new each week about this exercise. The main revelation we discussed this week was when we don't get something from the Lord to work on, we can ask an authority figure in our lives. The Teaching Notes cover various levels of authority we can turn to. **Takeaway.** "Somewhere in the renewing our minds process, we may have to learn to be submissive to our authority."

## Upcoming Events

- **Our next Social:** The Raising Godly Women (RGW) ladies are invited to join us at the next social. Since these are challenging economic times for many, we've decided to stay with our customary potluck format and will celebrate at our normal location. This format will also allow us to celebrate the graduation of one of our RGW ladies. Since our last meeting, I also found out this will be our last opportunity to fellowship with one of our sisters and her daughter, as they will be moving later on in that week. Hopefully, they will be able to attend as well, so we can love on them before they leave!
- **Our next meeting.** In our next meeting, we will begin closing the loop on our belt of truth discussion, using our new memory verse as a launching point.

## Next Week's assignments:

- **Exercise.** As applicable, continue working on the **Renewing Our Mind exercise** until you have completed your prayer.
- **New Memory Verse. Psalm 51:6:** The NKJV is in the attached notes, but I encourage you to memorize the version you read (or a version that really speaks to your heart).

## Closing:

- We closed our meeting in prayer with a time of need-specific prayer for the challenges that were lifted up, for the group overall, and as the Holy Spirit led

*If you have questions, comments, or concerns about information contained in this document, or would like to be added to or removed from the email distribution for the meeting notes, please email us at [wow2@wow2women.com](mailto:wow2@wow2women.com) or complete a Contact Form on our site, [www.wow2women.com](http://www.wow2women.com).*



## ATTACHMENT: TEACHING NOTES FOR MAY 15, 2013

### Closing the Loop:

- **Loin Cloth.** “In essence, a Loin Cloth is lower body underwear made of cloth or hides. Sometimes it's just a flap over the crotch and rear, and sometimes it's woven like actual briefs”<sup>1</sup>

### Discussion Topic: Love

- **John 3:16.** For God so **loved** (G25) the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (KJV).
- **Romans 8:31-39:** <sup>31</sup>What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is* God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the **love** (G26) of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” <sup>37</sup>Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who **loved** (G25) us. <sup>38</sup>For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, <sup>39</sup>nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the **love** (G26) of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (NKJV).
  - **Loved** (G25) – to love (in a social or moral sense):--(be-)loved(-ed).
  - **Love** (G26) – from (G25) love, i.e. affection or benevolence; specially (plural):-- (feast of) charity(-ably), dear, love.

### New Memory Verse:

- **Psalms 51:6.** “Behold you desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.” This verse will lead into our next discussion.

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<sup>1</sup> TV Tropes Foundation, LLC, *Loincloth*, Retrieved from <http://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/Main/Loincloth>, 15 May 2013).

**ATTACHMENT: LOINCLOTH**

**Loincloth<sup>1</sup>**



For some heroes, this is all the armor they need.

*"Also, everyone here could use a little less loin and a lot more cloth."*

— **Belkar Bitterleaf**, [The Order of the Stick](#), #736

In essence, a [Loin Cloth](#) is lower body underwear made of cloth or hides. Sometimes it's just a flap over the crotch and rear, and sometimes it's woven like actual briefs.

Often some cultures, especially stereotypically primitive ones, have this as the only form of clothing. But one of the most prominent appearances in fiction is the fantasy [Barbarian Heroes](#), even though they [come from the north, where it's really cold](#). Sure they wear these made of fur, and perhaps they dress better when actually in their northern homelands, but otherwise this is a form of [Impossibly Cool Clothes](#). Is frequently used as a male instance of [Stripperific](#) outfits.

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<sup>1</sup> TV Tropes Foundation, LLC, *Loincloth*, Retrieved from <http://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/Main/Loincloth>, 15 May 2013).

May occasionally be justified, if the barbarian from the [Grim Up North](#) actually complains about the sweltering heat of the southern lands he's exploring, and refuses to wear more for this reason.

Quite often overlaps with a [\(Walking\) Shirtless Scene](#). Sometimes the wearer [Does Not Like Shoes](#). Also can be worn by women, with a matching bikini top.