

## Truth & Consequences

# Love does

BY PAUL CULBERTSON

When love is used as a noun, it becomes consequently useless for it loses all of its passion, power and purpose. The word love is thrown around like a towel in our culture today. Used when it's needed, discarded easily, and very cheap to buy if we are being truthful.

I want to argue that very simply the way that our culture most often uses the word love, that it is not even love. It's infatuation, it is emotion, it's based on feelings, but it's not love.

If we truly want to define love, we have to really look at God. Many people say that the love defines God, but I would say that God defines love. When it is looked at from that perspective, everything changes. God did not simply create us and then say to us, "I love you." He created us and then showed us what love does, because simply saying I love you would never have been enough. His love for us brings forth words like commitment — commitment that never ends despite who we are what we may do. Love to God has always been an action and a continuous flow of who He is.

I read this book about a year ago called "Love Does." by Bob Goff. The book is made up of short stories from his life on how he came to realize that love is not a noun it's a verb. One of the many things that Bob writes in his book is: "In the end, love doesn't just keep thinking about it or planning it. Simply put: Love does!"

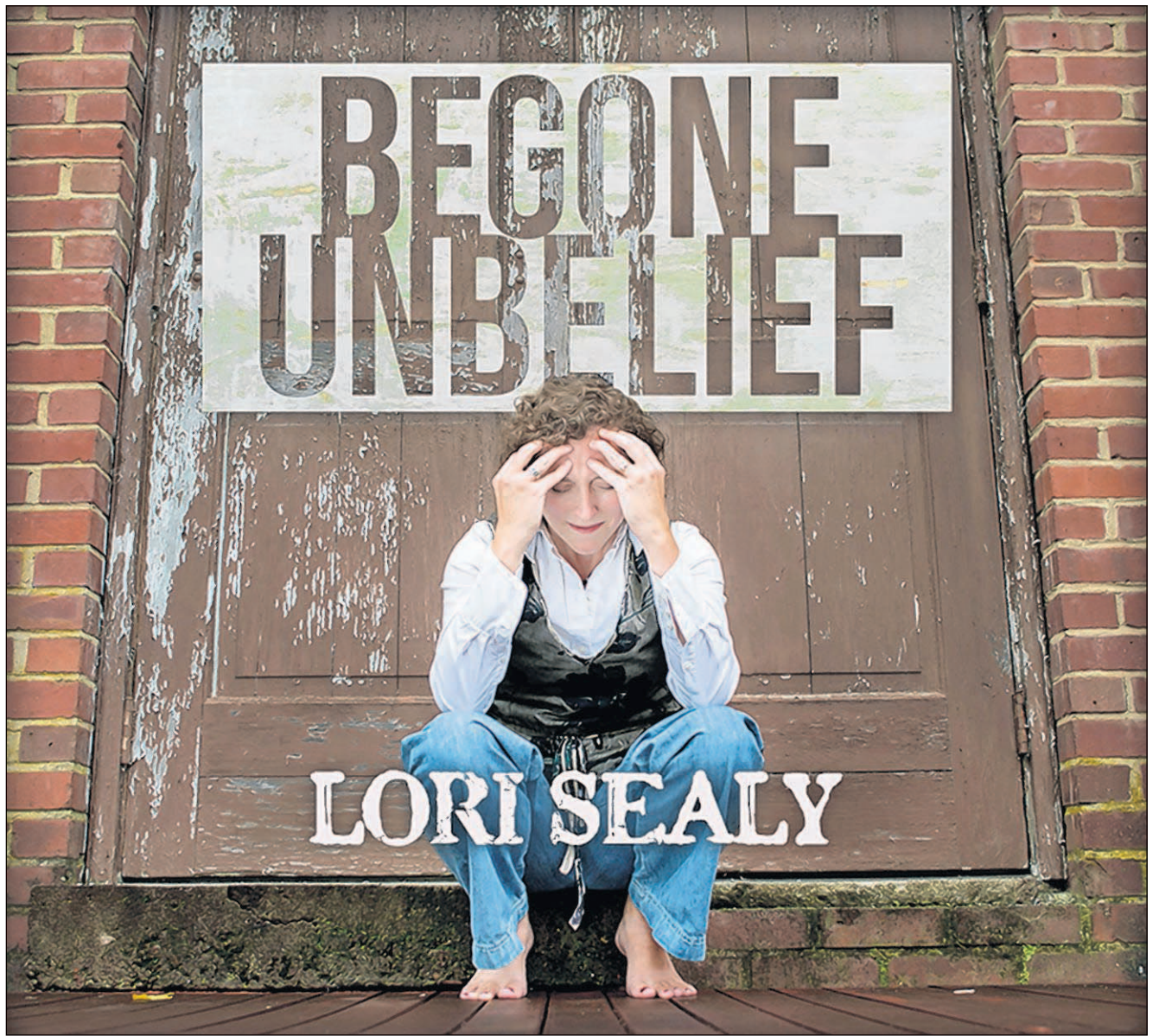
At Bridge42 Church, I have been teaching through the book of Galatians. Galatians 5:14 says this: For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." What does that mean? It means that I want to feed the hungry as much as I want to feed myself when I get hungry. It means that I want to find my neighbor a job as much as I am glad that I have a job. It means that I want to help the person stalled on the freeway as much as I am glad that I am not stalled on the freeway. It means that I want to share Christ with my neighbor as much as I am glad that I know Christ myself.

This all means that I care about what happens to others as much as I care about what happens to myself.

The word neighbor is unique and important here. Why? Because it doesn't say love your friends as yourself. It doesn't say love your family as yourself. It says love your neighbor as yourself. Neighbor can be anyone: Someone who believes different than you, someone who looks different than you, someone who acts different.

It doesn't tell you to do what your neighbors do, it says to love them. Love them the way they are trusting that your love for them may be a light that one day changes them. Just like God's love for you.

In closing, I want to say this. Christians often seek spirituality rather than a relationship. It's more of how we want others to view us, instead of how we view others. God doesn't want us to seek out how to impress him. If that's you, stop it. You can't impress Him. Simply love others as he does you and remember he didn't simply say I love you, he showed you what love does.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lori Sealy will be in concert at Faith Presbyterian Church on Bost Road tonight.

# Faith Presbyterian welcomes Lori Sealy

Special to The News Herald

Lori Sealy will be in concert at Faith Presbyterian Church, 605 Bost Road, tonight at 7.

Daily amazed at the mercies of God in her life and by the hand of Providence that has carved her steps, Lori's songwriting deeply reflects her intimate acquaintance with existence in a fallen world and with a Savior who kindly redeems that which is broken.

Her story is one of nearly being aborted, graciously being adopted, and later being abandoned. It travels the path of atheism and autism, doubt and discipleship, and arrives at a place of grace where the sovereign mercy of Christ forms hope out of hopelessness and grants light in deep darkness. She began playing piano at the age of 5 and was classically trained until the age of 20. At the age of 10, she started writing her first songs, creating compositions that fell along jazz, classical, folk, and electronic genres. She has just released a new CD of original songs and "re-tuned" hymns called *Begone Unbelief*.

This new CD is a thought provoking project which honestly looks at wrestling and redemption from the songwriting vantage point of one who truly has wrestled and been redeemed. Here, you will find songs that deal with the rarely addressed struggle of Christian doubt and with the blessing that

is found in even a minuscule mustard seed of faith planted in Jesus. It is a project that travels through the ebb and flow of a believer's life — from lamentation to jubilation, from questions to answers, from heartache to hope.

*Begone Unbelief* is a 13-song CD featuring Lori's signature songwriting, rich vocals, rhythmic guitar and balladeering piano work, but it goes so much further than what many have encountered in the unplugged live experience of her music.

Also the talents of musicians like Dale Baker (Grammy nominated/Dove award winning drummer from Sixpence None the Richer); Reggie Sullivan (bassist who's toured with the likes of Wynona, Olivia Newton-John, Ron McCurdy and is now tearing up the music scene with his own group, The Reggie Sullivan Band); Anthony Gravley (production & studio guru whose resumé includes folks like Buddy Miller & Julie Miller, Emmylou Harris, Geoff Moore and Steve Hindalong); Becky Edmondson (background vocalist); Leah Wilson (flute and penny whistle); and Kelley Robertson (cello & violin).

Lori lives in Cullowhee, with her husband Phillip, who is the church



planting pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church (PCA). They have two children, Joshua, 11, and Elizabeth, 8. Both Joshua and Lori live with autism.

Sealy's concert provides intimate and unplugged acoustic events where she, along with background vocalist Becky Edmondson, will share many of her songs and much of her story.

To listen to Sealy's music go to [www.reverbnation.com/lorisealy](http://www.reverbnation.com/lorisealy).

## Come, Let Us Reason Together

# Dignity will beat down gossip every time

Someone pointed out that "Gossip is like an old joke — there is always somebody around who has not heard it." Gossip is painful and unwise. Conversation between Adam and Eve must have been difficult at times because they had nobody to talk about.

Many of the tabloids major in gossip about the living and the dead. They have big circulations because they dig up all the dirt that they can discover about the rich and famous. Countless numbers of people have been slaughtered by gossip. Tragic hurt is caused by some wagging,



W. Flemon McIntosh Jr.

evil tongues. The book of James talks about the dangers of the tongue. Families have been broken up because of gossip, and some organizations have been torn asunder because of this act.

We should be very careful about passing on informa-

tion when we do not know all the details. The strange thing about the matter is this — lies hurt both parties, the one who tells the lie, and the person on whom the lie is told. It is so easy for some to excuse their lies and write them off as general conversation. Gossip can permanently ruin reputations and bring about serious injuries to individuals, churches and clubs.

The very sad part of it all, we have individuals who can hold the truth and facts in one hand, but will take on the lies and gossip about another one in the other hand. The lies we

believe. Keep in mind that there are those in our midst that love confusion and misery and they hate peace. Blessed are the peacemakers.

What should we do when the wagging tongues are passing along some juicy gossip about us? The best defense is to maintain your dignity and cool. Do not try to run down the source of the gossip. This is very easy to say, but hard to do. If you maintain your cool and your stance of dignity, you will soon wear down the gossip.

We have seen people making it a full time job in trying to find

out who started the lie. If you start digging into the gossip, it will start stinking and you are in very serious trouble at this point. You must always remember that evil is all around us. They lied on Jesus Christ and even crucified him. Give thanks for still being alive.

There are times when we need to defend our friends behind their backs. If we fail to do so, then we are just as bad as the gossip spreaders. Some unknown source left some words of wisdom: "There is so much