Freedom from **lies** (cause of despair, depression, hopelessness, meaninglessness, loneliness, confusion)
Antidote: Truth as it is in Jesus – **truth about God's disposition**, reality, and **our real identity**

*He gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, shepherds and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, to the work of serving, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a full grown man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we may no longer be children, tossed back and forth and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the **trickery** of men, in **craftiness**, after the **wiles of error**; but **speaking truth in love, we may grow up** in all things into him, who is the head, Christ; from whom all the body, being fitted and knit together through that which every joint supplies, according to the working in measure of each individual part, makes the body increase to the building up of itself in love.* (Ephesians 4:11-16)

*Jesus therefore said to those Jews who had believed him, "If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples. You will **know the truth**, and **the truth will make you free**."* (John 8:31-32)

*Therefore Jesus said to them, "If God were your father, you would love me, for I came out and have come from God. For I haven't come of myself, but he sent me. Why don't you understand my speech? Because you can't hear my word. **You are of your father, the devil**, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and doesn't stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. **When he speaks a lie, he speaks on his own; for he is a liar, and the father of it**. But because **I tell the truth**, you don't believe me.* (John 8:42-45)

*Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say that he is our God. You have not known him, but **I know him**. **If I said, 'I don't know him,' I would be like you, a liar**. But I know him, and keep his word.* (John 8:54-55)

*Now **the serpent** was **more subtle** than any animal of the field which Yahweh God had made. He said to the woman, "Has God really said, 'You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?'"*
The woman said to the serpent, "Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat, but of the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"
***The serpent said** to the woman, "**You won't surely die**,* (Genesis 3:1-4)

*Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, **who exchanged the truth of God for the lie**, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.* (Romans 1:24-25 NKJV)

Notice that the object of **focus** here is on **what we think and feel about God**, not about doctrinal facts. That means the underlying **problem of sin** at its heart is the embedded **lies** we feel about God. The way sin entered this world was not a mistake of eating bad fruit, but rather it was choosing to **believe the lie** about **God's disposition and character** that led to being **enslaved** to the father of lies himself.

*Blessed is he whose **transgressions are forgiven**, whose **sins are covered**. Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him and **in whose spirit is no deceit**.* (Psalms 32:1-2 NIV)

But the end of all things is near. Therefore be of sound mind, self-controlled, and sober in prayer. And above all things ***be earnest in your love among yourselves****, for* ***love covers a multitude of sins****. Be* ***hospitable to one another*** *without grumbling. As each has received a gift, employ it in* ***serving one another****, as good* ***managers of the grace of God*** *in its various forms.* (1 Peter 4:7-10)

Very recently this verse came to my mind in a new light, **the light of real truth about our identity**. The reason that **loves covers sins** is **not** because it **ignores** them or **dismisses** them as of no consequence, but far more importantly **love never allows behavior to be the source of identity** for anyone, especially those who are seeking to embrace the **truth about our real ID in Christ**.

Love affirms that **what God says about our identity** trumps any and every other opinion or assertion. **Sin no longer is allowed to define us**, but only the love of God for us revealed spectacularly in Christ Jesus our Lord. This in no way means sin is OK to indulge in – quite the opposite. It means that **because we really believe this love** that our heavenly Father has shown us through His Son, that by **beholding the glory** of God as the Source of all love and life and truth, we now are **free from the lie**, free from sin and its deceptive power to seduce us into **not acting like our true self**, free to have Christ living in and through us continuously so that the **power of God is manifest** in the transformation allowed to induct us into His kingdom of light.

We know and have believed the love *which God has for us. God is love, and he who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. In this love has been made perfect among us, that* ***we may have boldness in the day of judgment****, because as he is, even so are we in this world. There is* ***no fear*** *in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because* ***fear has punishment****. He who fears is not made perfect in love. We love Him, because he first loved us.*
If a man says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar*; for he who doesn't love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? This commandment we have from him, that he who loves God should also love his brother.* (1 John 4:16-21)

Jesus is our **only safe example** of how to **live in love alone** with **no deviation** from the real truth.

For ***to this you were called****, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving you an example, that you should follow his steps, who did not sin, "****neither was deceit found in his mouth****." Who, when he was cursed, didn't curse back. When he suffered, didn't threaten, but* ***committed himself to him*** *who judges righteously; who his own self bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live to righteousness; by whose stripes you were healed.* (1 Peter 2:21-24)

This is ***how we know that we know him****: if we keep his commandments. One who says,* ***"I know him," and doesn't keep his commandments, is a liar, and the truth isn't in him****. But whoever keeps his word, God's love has most certainly been perfected in him. This is* ***how we know that we are in him****: he who says he remains in him ought himself also to walk just like he walked.* (1 John 2:3-6)

All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not leading to death. We know that whoever is born of God doesn't sin, but he who was born of God keeps himself, and the evil one doesn't touch him. We know that ***we are of God****, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. We know that the Son of God has come, and has* ***given us an understanding****, that we* ***know him who is true****, and* ***we are in him who is true****, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.* (1 John 5:17-20)

*That which **makes a man to be desired** is his **kindness**. **A poor man is better than a liar**.* (Proverbs 19:22)

***Putting away** therefore all wickedness, **all deceit, hypocrisies**, envies, and all evil speaking, as newborn babies, **long for the pure milk** of the **Word**, **that you may grow** thereby, if indeed you have **tasted that the Lord is gracious**:* (1 Peter 2:1-3)

***Let love be without hypocrisy**. Abhor that which is evil. Cling to that which is good. In love of the brothers be tenderly affectionate one to another; in honor preferring one another;* (Romans 12:9-10)

*My little children, **let's not love in word only**, neither with the tongue only, **but in deed and truth**.* (1 John 3:18)

*Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said about him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, **in whom is no deceit**!"* (John 1:47)

*These are those who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These were redeemed by Jesus from among men, the first fruits to God and to the Lamb. **In their mouth was found no lie**, for they are blameless.* (Revelation 14:4-5)

*All the words of my mouth are in righteousness. There is **nothing crooked or perverse** in them.* (Proverbs 8:8)

*They made his grave with the wicked, and with a rich man in his death; although he had done no violence, **neither was any deceit** in his mouth.* (Isaiah 53:9)

*But I will leave in the midst of you an afflicted and poor people, and they will take refuge in the name of Yahweh. The remnant of Israel will not do iniquity, **nor speak lies**, **neither will a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth**, for they will feed and lie down, and no one will make them afraid."* (Zephaniah 3:12-13)

*For, "He who would love life, and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil, and his lips from **speaking deceit**. Let him turn away from evil, and do good. Let him seek peace, and pursue it."* (1 Peter 3:10-11)

*He who overcomes, I will give him these things. I will be his God, and he will be my son. But for the cowardly, unbelieving, sinners, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and **all liars**, **their part is in the lake that burns with fire** and sulfur, which is **the second death**."* (Revelation 21:7-8)