

## ***Mature Love: Embracing God's Narrative When Mistreated***

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. As we cultivate agreement with God's perspective of the people who mistreat we can enjoy mature love and family unity with joy.
- B. David was tending sheep without any accomplishments yet  
***<sup>7</sup>For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at [focuses on] the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart. (1 Sam. 16:7)***  
***<sup>5</sup>Judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes...[to] reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God. (1 Cor. 4:5)***
- C. ***Outward appearance***: This includes "the facts" about 5-10 of their ***main accomplishments***, 5-10 of their ***failures*** and 5-10 of their ***deficiencies*** (in their personality or leadership skills)
- D. These ***facts*** do matter, but are not the ***primary determining factors*** in God's narrative for people.
- E. The divine narrative is based on the profound reality that the Lord sees not as man sees.
- F. ***Divine narrative***: He looks at His ***sovereign call*** on them, their ***sincere motives*** (seen in their countless 10 second thoughts or conversation with God that reveal their intention to obey) and His interpretation of their ***main accomplishments, failures and deficiencies***  
***<sup>14</sup>The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander over His people. (1 Sam. 13:14)***
- G. Our goal is to engage in "the right conversation" – the one that promotes God's narrative in people's lives and thus advances mature love with family unity and joy  
***<sup>20</sup>He [Abraham] did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief... (Rom. 4:20)***  
***<sup>22</sup>He raised up David...concerning whom He testified and said, 'I have found David...a man after My heart, who will do all My will' ...<sup>36</sup>For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep [died]... (Acts 13:22, 36; NAS)***

Gen. 12 Abraham lied about Sarah to Pharaoh and he weary of waiting so he had a son with Hagar

Gen. 16 Hagar was Abraham's concubine and the mother of his son Ishmael.