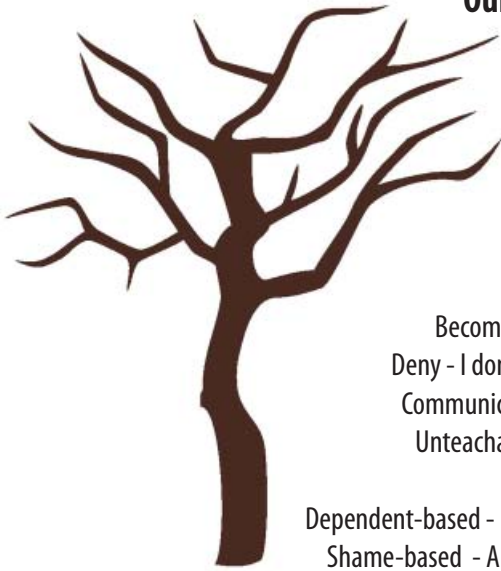


Living Outside Love

Disconnect - Neglect - Stunted - Barren

Lack of connection means all growth is stunted and the relationship cannot develop or produce love or its fruit.
I run from the Source (God) rather than become grounded in Him.



Our connection with God is broken/grieved through:

- Independence (pride)
- Lack of vulnerability/honesty (leading to denial)
- Unfaithfulness (heart belongs elsewhere)
- Undealt with sin issues
- Bitterness or resentment

When My Connection is Broken

- Become self reliant - self protect, self defend, self provide, self survive
- Deny - I don't process my thoughts or feelings - I bury them or cover over them
- Communication - I'm knowingly or unknowingly become dishonest and hide
- Unteachable - I can't bear to see or hear anything in myself that isn't right
- Trust - I don't trust anyone except myself
- Dependent-based - I may create dependencies on people, or allow them to create them with me
- Shame-based - All I can focus on is what is wrong or missing and where I don't measure up
- Bitter and resentful - I feel victimized and hurt by others, focus on how they hurt me
- Effort-based - my life is composed of efforts and performance

How Does a Lack of Love Manifest in Me?

- Control - I'm filled with efforts to control outcomes in myself and others
- Negative emotions - fear, guilt, anger, etc.
- Buying love - I try to win you over through efforts
- Taking score - "what I do versus what you do"
- Judging and comparing - trying to get "one up"
- Blaming and defending "if you would just change"
- Jealousy and feeling "threatened" if you are "better than me"
- Perfectionism
- Compulsive need for "more" in life - never satisfied

Love Remedy

- I surrender and give up my efforts
- I confess, repent as needed
- I admit I don't have love in me
- I ask for love to be poured into me
- I transfer dependency to God
(grounded to the Source)



Love enters

- I begin to receive nourishment
- I begin the process of growth
- I gradually produce life and will *eventually* bear fruit

