

**GRACE ROADS
COUNSELING
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Embracing Love

Fear— We are all hiding

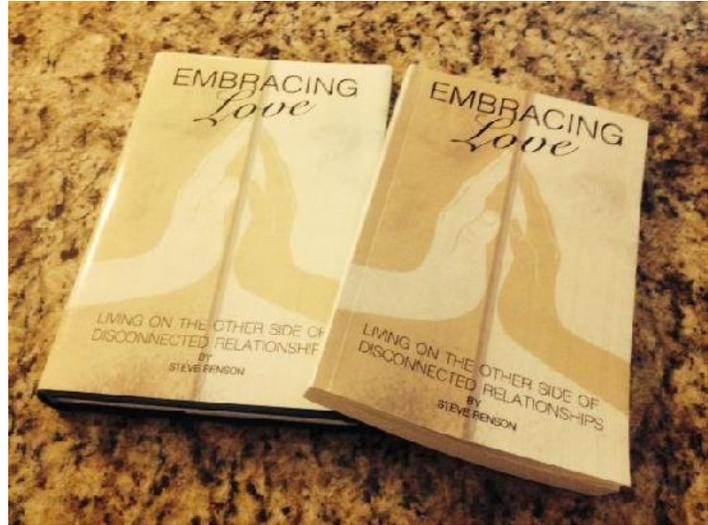
Embracing Love—Now Available

Have you felt con-
fused and isolated in
relationships?

Have you felt lost in
conflicted relational
chaos?

Do you feel an emo-
tional disconnection
between you, others,
and God?

If so, keep reading...



“Embracing Love” invites us to explore what it means to love others well, live beyond fear, and embrace an authentic life. Through the author’s personal story and those of others, we will understand the intricacies of giving and receiving love. This book is for those who are tired of hiding, willing to risk being exposed, and desiring to be transformed by God’s embracing love. “Embracing Love” dares you to discover the other side of just living in loveless, chaotic, and disconnected relationships.

There is a preview on page two about the way we hide in fear. It can be purchased from Amazon and Barnes and Noble online and from your local book store. Go to my website www.groundedingrace.net for the link to Amazon.

In a few weeks I will have copies available through my website. Thank you for your help. In everything, may you be gripped by his grace, find his mercy meddling, and fall forward into his love!

Remember- you are his beloved!

Steve

Fear– We are all hiding . . .

Ironically, fear keeps us from entering into those costs and then winds up costing us more than we thought we were willing to risk. We choose protection over intimacy, stagnation over growth, and comfort over challenge. Fear leads us toward immaturity. Fear costs us the ability to love with power, with strength, and with endurance. Fear becomes a driving force of our relational bondage: It keeps us in chains to an isolated life.

Lastly, fear keeps us living in denial. Instead of willingly dealing with our pain and past wounds, we hide from the reality of our own heart. In fact, all of us will hide in some form or fashion. If we open our eyes and look— really look—at the world around us, we are able to see many people hiding. We see parents hiding from their children when they are too wrapped up in themselves but don't even know it. We see spouses hiding from intimacy when they would rather “be right” than to admit their own insecurity. We see executives hiding from failure so they manipulate others in order to remain in power. We see teenagers hiding in fear of not being loved when they go to the extreme to receive any kind of affection before the silence of night befalls them. We see people hiding from loved ones when they can't admit their darkest, shameful hours of pain because now they will need to give up the façade that they have spent years creating. We see many

rich people hiding in their spiritual poverty. We see many poor people hiding in their quest to become rich. We see the majority of the middle class hiding in their discontentment. We see many doctors, pastors, nurses, teachers, and yes, even counselors hiding from each other. The helping field can be a silent wasteland of suffering because we don't want to admit that we need help ourselves. Hiding is the ultimate addiction of fear.

Fear leads us toward immaturity. Fear costs us the ability to love with power, with strength and with endurance.

We hide in busyness, reputations, materialism, and denial. We hide in power, insecurity, inability, and inferiority. We hide in theology, divisions, self-righteousness, and hatred. We hide in loss, grief, pain, and denial. We hide in entitlements, ingenuity, indifference, and intolerance. We hide in anything that will give us comfort, worth, allegiance, or affection. We are all hiding—where we are hiding is the ultimate question. In hiding, we will continue to live in our most dreaded fear—being and feeling alone.

(From “Embracing Love– Living on The Other Side of Disconnected Relationships” pg 13)

What others are saying about “Embracing Love”:

“Steve Benson leaves no stone unturned and you will marvel at how deeply he makes you look into your soul as you begin the process of seeing yourself, your spouse, and God in a complete and loving light.

‘Embracing Love’ is a book which opens you up to giving as well as receiving life's greatest gift— love.”

Coach Mike Sherman— former Green Bay Packers Head Coach

“I would highly recommend ‘Embracing Love’ to anyone who desires to have a better framework for life.

Steve is able to present these truths in a honest, but gentle way.

This is one of those books that you would want to share with others!”

Mark Thompson— Operations Manager for 1&2 Week Mission Trips for Mission to the World