Peeled – Week 1

Love

*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.
 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.
 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.
 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.****1 Corinthians 13:4-7***

* Four truths about God’s love in me:
1. It is not an option.

*"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another."*

***John 13:34-35***

1. It is something I do more than I feel.

*"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'
 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,****Matthew 5:43-44***

1. It puts the needs and interests of others first.

*Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.  The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself."  Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.* ***Romans 13:8-10***

1. Knows no boundaries.

*And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,
 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.* ***Ephesians 3:17-19***

* Five questions to ask myself:
1. Am I harsh?

*Love is patient, kind*

1. Do I have to win?

 *Love does not envy, does not boast, is not proud*

1. Am I self-centered?

*Love is not rude or self-seeking*

1. Am I willing to forgive?

 *Love is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs*

1. Am I affirming?

 *Love does not delight in evil, it rejoices in truth, protects, trusts, hopes and perseveres*