

A Remarkable Love

Dr. Maxwell Maltz (1899 – 1975) was an American cosmetic surgeon who wrote *Psycho-Cybernetics*, which was a system of ideas that he claimed could improve one's self-image. In turn, he said, that person would lead a more successful and fulfilling life.

Max Lucado, author and minister, in his book *You Changed My Life: Stories of Real People with Remarkable Hearts*, relates a story that Dr. Maltz shared about remarkable love.

A man had been injured in a fire while attempting to save his parents from a burning house. He couldn't get to them. They perished. His face was burned and disfigured.

He mistakenly interpreted his pain as God's punishment. The man wouldn't let anyone see him, not even his wife.

She went to Dr. Maltz for help. He told the woman not to worry. "I can restore his face."

The wife was not enthused. Her husband had repeatedly refused any help. She knew he would again.

Then why her visit? Dr. Maltz asked.

"I want you to disfigure my face so I can be like him! If I can share in his pain, then maybe he will let me back into his life."

Dr. Maltz was shocked. He denied her request, but was so moved by this woman's love that he went to speak with her husband. Knocking on the man's bedroom door, he called loudly, "I'm a plastic surgeon, and I want you to know that I can restore your face."

No response.

"Please come out."

Again there was no answer.

Still speaking through the door, Dr. Maltz told the man of his wife's proposal. "She wants me to disfigure her face, to make her face like yours in the hope that you will let her back into your life. That's how much she loves you."

There was a brief moment of silence, and then, ever so slowly, the doorknob began to turn.

So these three things continue forever: faith, hope, and love. And the greatest of these is love (1 Corinthians 13:13 NCV).

– Beecher Hunter