

Built By the Lord

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Chapter 8

Relationship Goal #1: Love

I. What's Forever For?

A. Weddings

1. You have probably made this vow yourself or you have witnessed others making this vow.
2. The vows generally go something like this:
I, _____, take you _____, to be my wife (husband), to have and to hold, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish; from this day forward until death do us part.
3. Stating those vows, the idea of loving that person forever seems easy.

B. We have different levels of love.

1. First love is an infatuation... Puppy love?
2. The love we have when we are first married is not the love we have when we have been married many years.
3. Love grows... deepens.

C. Why doesn't that infatuation love last?

D. The love we have at first will invariably hit a road block.

1. That first love that we thought would last forever may be diminished.
2. Some people say, "I don't love them anymore!"
3. But the vow that we made is still there. Love is still the goal.
4. How do we move past that infatuation love and move into a deeper love?

II. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 – How do you know when it's love?

- A. The Biblical concept of love is different than the infatuated teenager puppy-love.
- B. This passage is NOT talking about romantic love.

C. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

1. Wow... this is an extensive list.
2. This list is for us... you and me, Matthew 7:1-2.
The standard we use for others is the standard God uses for us.
3. Love is patient.
 - a. Love realizes that others must grow... and that they may grow at a different rate than others.
 - b. 2 Peter 3:9
4. Love is kind.
 - a. Ephesians 4:29-32
 - b. How do we speak to our family? To others?
Does our speech provide grace to them? Does it build up? Are we tender-hearted and forgiving?
5. Love is not jealous, does not brag, and is not arrogant.

- a. These statements go together and are different aspects of the same issue → competition.
- b. We may have grown up in a competitive family... not only in games and sports but in all areas of work, play, and LIFE!
- c. God did not give men and women to each other to compete but to complement. It really is about teamwork!
- d. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

6. Love does not act unbecomingly. Love behaves appropriately.

- a. Love does not do anything that will bring itself or the object of love into disgrace.
- b. Morality and purity are the standards for Christian conduct.
- c. Ephesians 5:3-13
- d. Morality and purity are the standards for Christian conduct... with our family and with people outside of our family.

7. Love does not seek its own → is not selfish.

- a. This is the key to success in marriage and other family relationships.
- b. Philippians 2:3-4

8. Love is not provoked.

- a. This one is tough. We can get mad with our spouse, our kids, our parents, with our church family. Amazingly, the relationships we claim are most based on love are the ones that most often violate this principle.
- b. We talk to our spouses in a way that we would never talk to our boss... we would get fired!

9. Love does not take into account a wrong suffered.

- a. Our family is not perfect. We get hurt sometimes. The hurt that comes from family will be deeper than any other because we are so emotionally vulnerable in our family relationships.
- b. Love does not keep score. Love overlooks the past.
- c. Proverbs 10:12

10. Love does not rejoice with unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth.

- a. Love is not blind to sin. Love is not happy when the object of love is losing their soul through unrighteousness.
- b. Love will call the sinner to account... gently. Galatians 6:1

11. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

- a. This is perhaps the ultimate.
- b. This love is unconditional.

12. Have you gotten there yet? Me either. Let's keep working on it.

III. Today's response

- A. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Insert your name in the verse instead of the word "love." – I would say, "Ron is patient..."
- B. Then make it more specific by adding your family member's names as objects of love. I would say, "Ron is patient with Angie."
- C. How well are you following Philippians 2:3-4 in your family?