

Love in Marriage: 1 Corinthians 13

1 Corinthians 12:31-14:1 Structure

12:31 Desiring Gifts and Finding the Way of Love

13:1-3 Absence of love

13:4a Love Is

13:4b-6 Love Defined Negatively

13:7 Love Does

13:8-13 Permanence of love

14:1 Following the Way of Love and Desiring Gifts

12:31

Love is the way. It's not the destination. It is the way.

13:1-3

Any action in my marriage that is not actively seeking my spouse's best is valueless.

13:4a **Love is**

Patient is made up of two words (far away + anger). God our Father describes Himself in as "slow to anger, abounding in love."

Patience puts up with and doesn't jump on every little thing.

Proverbs 19:11 says, “A person’s wisdom yields patience; it is to one’s glory to overlook an offense.

Kind – it recognizes that everyone carries a burden and tries to lighten it.

13:4b-6 **Love Defined Negatively**

1 Corinthians 13:4b-6 Structure

Does not envy

Does not boast

Is not proud

Does not dishonor others

Is not self-seeking

Is not easily angered

Keeps no record of wrongs

Does not delight in evil

But rejoices with the truth

Does not Envy – Envy compares itself to the other and determines that the other has it better. It is the enemy of oneness.

Does not Boast – the word could be translated “behave as a braggart,” “be a windbag”

Boasting compares itself to the other and determines it is better.

Is not proud – the word could be translated “puffed up”

Pride is a one-way street to unresolved conflict.

Does not dishonor others (is not rude)

Rudeness calls names, belittles, demeans.

Is not Self-Seeking –

Here in the center of this passage, which is in the center of this chapter, which is in the center of this essay, the center of the center of the center, is this truth: LOVE IS NOT SELF-SEEKING.

Rather than look for what it can gain, love looks for what it can offer.

Is Not easily angered – Opposite of patience. Love keeps anger far away. It doesn't have a short fuse. It doesn't blow up easily.

Keeps no record of wrongs – In love, we don't keep a record of past sins to use against the other.

Always protects – beautiful picture of covering someone from a threat. Intimacy gives us a front row seat to the weaknesses of our partner. And love invites us to protect their reputation, their relationships, their self-worth.

Always trusts – Love makes charitable judgments.

Always hopes – Hope is an unwillingness to give failure the final word and looks to ultimate triumph by the grace of God.

Always perseveres – Perseverance is an optimistic strength, not a resigned despair

13:8-12

Love is permanent.

13:13

Love will be the way for all eternity, because God is love.

14:1

The reversal of the order from 12:31 puts the emphasis on following the way of love.

What is God calling you to do to respond to this passage?