

Life Notes *Family Matters with Pastor Cory*

7. How the Bible Defines Love

INTRODUCTION

It's Valentine's Day! So let's look at a Biblical definition of love.

Love Is Patient

What drives most couples apart is not insurmountable issues, but small idiosyncrasies. Everyone grows at different rates (spiritually, mentally, emotionally). So when he mismanages money, be patient. When she doesn't flush, breathe. When there's sin, help bear the burden. Be patient with them as Christ is patient with you.

Love Is Kind

Have you ever caught yourself treating others better than you treat your spouse? I have! And it is an embarrassing thing to realize. It can be an unconscious problem. I should be more tender, understanding, and encouraging to my wife than anyone else.

Love Is Not Jealous

Joy was once given a prophetic word. It stated that I would always have influence from a platform, but her influence would grow exponentially off stage. Over the past two years, I have seen that come to pass. And it has been amazing! We are one. Her victory is my victory! I can't be jealous of her success. I must celebrate it!

Love Is Not Boastful

A husband says, "I washed the dishes!" The wife replies, "Well, I would've washed dishes, but I was busy washing your underwear!" These are boastful statements. This draws attention to what you have accomplished, but what your spouse hasn't. If we do boast, it should be about each other, not ourselves.

Love Is Not Proud

All of us have strengths and weaknesses. Pride steps in when we aren't honest about ourselves. We either see only weaknesses or only strengths. This isn't healthy. Love is willing to put weaknesses on the table and eat humble pie when needed.

Love Is Not Rude

I enjoy a good joke as much as anyone. Some may even say I am a funny guy! But if not careful I can make jokes at Joy's expense. I

may not think it's a big deal, but if it's rude in her eyes, it's rude. I don't have the right to decide what is rude or not anymore. She defines it. Most people don't consider themselves rude, but again, you no longer define what rude looks like. Your spouse does.

Love Does Not Demand Its Own Way

How flexible are you? Honestly. When it comes to dinner plans, sexual needs, or your hobbies; are you willing to die to your wants? Or do you sulk? I'm guilty of this more often than I'd like to admit. But the Lord calls us to focus on the needs of others first.

Love Is Not Irritable

When tired (or out of coffee), it's easy to be overly sensitive. And often times, those closest to us are the ones who feel our wrath. Fight through irritability. Choose kindness. Especially since the other person probably did nothing to deserve your bad attitude.

Love Keeps No Record of Being Wronged

Many people hold on to hurt. This is manifested when one shuts down or constantly brings up the past. Maybe it is due to a very real, very painful issue. I can't stress the importance of working through resentment! Be willing to have open, honest discussions about your hurts. And most importantly, give them to the Lord. Life is much more fulfilling when walking in total forgiveness!

Love Never Gives Up

My parent's divorce had a devastating effect on my life. So Joy and I made an agreement early on. We decided we would never use the word "divorce" in our relationship. It was never an option, nor will it ever be. I will never give up on her; she will never give up on me. And just to be clear, she has the more difficult task. 😊

Love Is Always Hopeful

I pray for Joy's success all the time. I have a sincere hope that she will succeed as a mom, as an employee, as a spiritual leader, and so on. Why? Because I love her. And ultimately, what's best for her is best for me!

Love Endures Through Every Circumstance

"For better or for worse. Until death do us part." Remember that? It's a promise you likely made to your spouse and to the Lord. It's a reminder that love is a commitment, not a feeling. Through difficulty, stand on the Rock. He will make you strong!