

Assessing Love in Marriage

Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. 1Cor 13:4 (AMP)

- Read the following questions and check the appropriate response i.e. no, sometimes, often, yes

I. Assessing Love as Being Patient

Patient: 1: bearing pains or trials calmly or without complaint 2: manifesting forbearance under provocation or strain 3: not hasty or impetuous 4: steadfast despite opposition, difficulty, or adversity

1.) Do you feel you are patient with your spouse when he or she _____
_____ . no, sometimes, often, yes

(fill in the blank with the presenting issue(s)?)

2.) Do you demand that your spouse fulfill your wishes on your timetable? no, sometimes, often, yes

3.) Do you feel you empathize with your spouse as a co-sinner who must wrestle against the passions of the flesh? no, sometimes, often, yes

4.) Do you recognize this can be a powerful struggle that does not usually change "on demand"? no, sometimes, often, yes (Read Romans 7 for reference)

II. Assessing Love as Being Kind

Kind: 2 a: of a sympathetic or helpful nature **b**: of a forbearing nature : GENTLE **c**: arising from or characterized by sympathy or forbearance <a *kind* act>

1. Do you express kindness to your spouse when he or she does not fulfill your perceived "needs"? no, sometimes, often, yes

2. When you confront your spouse, do you do so with a spirit of kindness or condescension? no, sometimes, often, yes

3. When your spouse does something hurtful or offensive, are you eager to return such behavior with gestures and words of kindness? no, sometimes, often, yes

III. Assessing Love as Not Being Envious or Boastful

Envy: 1: painful or resentful awareness of an advantage enjoyed by another joined with a desire to possess the same advantage

1. Do you envy the relationships of other couples (including fictional relationships as seen on television or in books)? no, sometimes, often, yes

2. Do you find yourself meditating on how things "should be" in your marriage, becoming resentful as a result? no, sometimes, often, yes

Boast: 1: to speak of or assert with excessive pride 2 a: to possess and often call attention to (something that is a source of pride)

3. Do you boast to yourself or others about your virtues as a spouse and compare your "goodness" (i.e., I'm reliable; I'm responsible; I'm loving; I'm dedicated to God, etc.) to the perceived weak areas of your spouse (i.e., He's distant; She's critical; He's boring; She's overweight; He's not the spiritual leader)? no, sometimes, often, yes

IV. Assessing Love as Not Being Arrogant

Arrogant: 1 : exaggerating or disposed to exaggerate one's own worth or importance often by an overbearing manner

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1. Do you tend to focus on your own perceived "needs" over and above blessing and ministering to your spouse? *no*, *sometimes*, *often*, *yes*
2. Are you more concerned with what your spouse is doing wrong than with what you are doing right (before God)? *no*, *sometimes*, *often*, *yes*
3. Are you more troubled that your spouse's actions/words are sins against you than they are sins against God? *no*, *sometimes*, *often*, *yes*

It (love) is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]. 1 Cor 13:5 (AMP)

V. Assessing Love as Not Being Rude

Rude: 2c: offensive in manner or action

1. When you arrive home from work, do you pay attention to your spouse or do you isolate yourself (i.e., watch television, surf the internet, etc.)? *no*, *sometimes*, *often*, *yes*
2. When your spouse arrives home from work, do you provide "down time" for him or her to wind down, or do you demand his or her immediate attention? *no*, *sometimes*, *often*, *yes*
3. Do you speak harshly to your spouse? *no*, *sometimes*, *often*, *yes*

VI. Assessing Love as Not Insisting Its Own Way

1. Are you more concerned with what God wants from you in your marriage or with what you want from your spouse? *no*, *sometimes*, *often*, *yes*
2. Are you willing to honor God's Word in your marriage even when you are not getting what you want? *no*, *sometimes*, *often*, *yes*
3. Are you willing to joyfully submit your will to God's in your marriage (i.e., serve when not being served; repaying evil with good; making your wants nothing and God's everything, etc.)? *no*, *sometimes*, *often*, *yes*

VII. Assessing Love as Not Being Irritable or Resentful

Irritable: easily exasperated or excited Resent: to feel or express annoyance or ill will at

1. Are you short tempered with your spouse? *no*, *sometimes*, *often*, *yes*
2. Are you clinging to old hurts as the reason for not being loving to your spouse? *no*, *sometimes*, *often*, *yes*
3. Do you meditate on past offenses in your marriage? *no*, *sometimes*, *often*, *yes*
Have you forgiven? *no*, *sometimes*, *often*, *yes*

It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. 1 Cor 13:6 (AMP)

VIII. Assessing Love as Not Rejoicing In Wrongdoing

1. Do you take satisfaction in "getting even" by doing annoying or hurtful things to your spouse? *no*, *sometimes*, *often*, *yes*
2. Are you deeply convicted when you "repay evil with evil" in your marriage? *no*, *sometimes*, *often*, *yes*

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3. Does it "feel good" to teach your spouse a lesson by repaying him or her for failing to meet your perceived "needs"? no, sometimes, often, yes

IX. Assessing Love as Rejoicing In the Truth

1. Is it satisfying to "do good" to your spouse even when he or she has hurt you? no, sometimes, often, yes

2. Is it fulfilling to love your spouse as Jesus commands in Luke 6:27-33? no, sometimes, often, yes

3. Do you rejoice that you are honored to imitate Jesus in your marriage even when difficulties and relational challenges arise? no, sometimes, often, yes

Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening]. 1 Cor 13:7 (AMP)

X. Assessing Love as Bearing, Believing, and Hoping All Things

1. Are you willing to imitate Jesus in Philippians 2:8 by humbling yourself and being obedient in your marriage by crucifying fleshly desires that would hinder you from doing so? no, sometimes, often, yes

2. Do you believe God's Word and promises over and above your own perception of things? When the Bible says, "You can do all things through Christ", do you believe what the Bible says? no, sometimes, often, yes

3. Do you find your hope in God and His perfect plan for you, or do you place your hope in self-created illusions (i.e., perfect marriage, loving spouse, conflict free life, etc.)? no, sometimes, often, yes

Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end]. As for prophecy (the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose), it will be fulfilled and pass away; as for tongues, they will be destroyed and cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away [it will lose its value and be superseded by truth]. 1 COr. 13:8 (AM)

XI. Assessing Love as Never Ending

1. If love never ends, how can you justify not loving your spouse anymore? no, sometimes, often, yes

2. Emotions come and go, so if your feeling of love is gone, might this indicate that Godly love is something more than only emotion? no, sometimes, often, yes

3. If you compare God's love for you to how you are loving your wife, how are you measuring up? If we are daily sinning against God, yet he continues to love us, how can you justify not doing the same in your marriage? no, sometimes, often, yes

4. Do you recognize that God's unending love has given you everything you need to love your spouse as he has called you? no, sometimes, often, yes

*All word definitions from www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/patient