

Love Assessment

Biblical love is very clearly defined in 1st Corinthians 13:4-7 *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. 5 It 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]. 6 It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. 7 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]. (AMPC)*

The following are brief descriptors of the active verbs describing love. First, rate yourself on a scale of 1-10. Second, answer the question, "What action(s) do I need to take for me to move closer to a 10?" Please be specific with your answer. When you are finished please email or fax your Love Assessment to me.

Love is patient: (G3114 makrothymeō: forbearing, long suffering) To be patient is to be long-suffering, enduring, and self-controlled. Patience is having the power to retaliate but not using it. It is not the same as indifference. It is acknowledging someone's faults and choosing to have a close relationship regardless. Patience is putting power, the power to get even, under restraint. How would you rate yourself at being patient?

Self-Rating: Never 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Always

What action(s) do I need to take for me to move closer to a 10? _____

Love is kind: (G5541 chresteuomai: to show oneself mild, act benevolently) To be kind is to be courteous, helpful, and cooperative. It is the flip side of patience. It moves from taking things from others to giving to others what they need. It is discovering a need and doing something useful to meet that need. When someone irritates or is irritable, the first response is to soothe that person. How would you rate yourself at being kind?

Self-Rating: Never 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Always

What action(s) do I need to take for me to move closer to a 10? _____

Love does not envy: (G2206 zelōō: covet [earnestly], [have] desire, be jealous over) There are two levels of envy. The first says, "I want what you have" and the second level of envy says, "I wish you didn't have what you have." The root word for envy comes from the Greek, originally meaning 'to boil over.' It refers to an inner boiling or seething about what someone has or possesses. How would you rate yourself at not being envious?

Self-Rating: Never 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Always

What action(s) do I need to take for me to move closer to a 10? _____

Love does not boast: (G4068 perpereuomai: vain-glorious, braggart, rhetorical embellishments in extolling one's self excessively) Boasting is the flip side of envy. Envy is wanting something another person has and boasting is making another person want what you have. When you are walking in love you are not the one trying to make yourself look good. How would you rate yourself on not boasting?

Self-Rating: Never 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Always

What action(s) do I need to take for me to move closer to a 10? _____

Love is not proud: (G5448 physioo: to be puffed, inflated, proud) Boasting comes from the mouth but pride/arrogance comes from an attitude of the heart. It is a sense of arrogance that displays being better or not needing another person. It is the attitude of self-sufficiency. It is saying I am better and/or what I have is better. How would you rate yourself on not being proud?

Self-Rating: Never 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Always

What action(s) do I need to take for me to move closer to a 10? _____

Love is not rude: (G807 aschemoneo: to act unbecomingly) The word in the original Greek means to behave in an unbecoming manner. It refers to poor manners. It is saying 'I could care less what affects my actions have or how I feel about what you do, because I'll do what I want to do whether you like it or not.' It is undisciplined behavior. It is being boorish, obnoxious, and impolite. It is lacking in grace. How would you rate yourself at not being rude?

Self-Rating: Never 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Always

What action(s) do I need to take for me to move closer to a 10? _____

Love is not selfish: (G2212 zeteo: to seek, + G1438 heautou: [her-him] self, itself) Selfishness is being interested only in your own thoughts, desires, and accomplishments. It is about using others for self-gratification. Seeking what is good for someone else is far removed as a way of living life. It is about only looking out for self. How would you rate yourself on not being selfish?

Self-Rating: Never 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Always

What action(s) do I need to take for me to move closer to a 10? _____

Love isn't easily angered: (G3947 paroxyno: provoke, rouse to anger, to exasperate) Anger can actually be a result of selfishness for it can come from not getting what you feel you deserve or that someone took something that you feel you deserve. It comes from a sense that you matter most. It is a reckless, generalized, uncaring expression of an unmet personal need. How would you rate yourself on not being angry?

Self-Rating: Never 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Always

What action(s) do I need to take for me to move closer to a 10? _____

Love keeps no record of wrong: (G3049 logizomai: to take an inventory, to reckon, to count compute, calculate) A bookkeeping ledger is the idea that is being used here. It is having an accounting that is accessible to be used at any time so that you don't forget. It is keeping a tally of all wrong doings so that they can be used when needed either to attack or defend. It is far removed from forgiving and forgetting. It is resentful, putting an emphasis on the past rather than the present or the future. How would you rate yourself on not keeping track of wrong?

Self-Rating: Never 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Always

What action(s) do I need to take for me to move closer to a 10? _____

Love does not delight in evil: (G2556 kakos: base, wrong, wicked, all kinds of evil) this concerns bragging or gloating in sin or wrong doing. It's making a conscious effort to make a memory of an evil that has been done. It is remembering with approval, things that were done to self or another that could harm. Offending another is of no concern as long as it feels good or brings retribution. It does not encourage other people. It passes on a transgression. How would you rate yourself on not delighting in evil?

Self-Rating: Never 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Always

What action(s) do I need to take for me to move closer to a 10? _____

Love rejoices in the truth: (G225 aletheia: what is true in any matter under consideration) This carries the idea of celebrating what is good and right as it is taught and lived. It is eulogizing what is righteous. It is talking about the good in someone. it is appreciation. It is thinking on what is noble, what is right, what is lovely, and what is admirable. It is thinking and talking honestly about what is accurate. How would you rate yourself on rejoicing in truth?

Self-Rating: Never 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Always

What action(s) do I need to take for me to move closer to a 10? _____

Love always protects: (G4722 stego: to protect or keep by covering, to preserve) A safe person in a relationship is one who provides defense for the other person physically, intellectually and emotionally. Healthy relationships always have appropriate boundaries that allow security for each individual. These boundaries are respected and as a result, the relationship is a shelter from life's difficulties. Love out of honest regard, respect and concern for the value of another person will do everything it can to cover and suppress the sin of that person. Love does not exploit. How would you rate yourself on being a safe person that protects?

Self-Rating: Never 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Always

What action(s) do I need to take for me to move closer to a 10? _____

Love always trusts: (G4100 pisteuo: to have faith in [with respect to a person] to believe) Instead of being suspicious, instead of thinking the worst, love believes what is best. It gives others the benefit of the doubt. It believes that nothing ever will be done to harm. It gives the positive view that if there is a wrong it was an honest mistake. It is not cynical but compassionate. If there is an error, it is on the side of believing in the good of a person. "This does not mean . . . that a Christian is to allow himself to be fooled by every rogue, or to pretend that he believes that white is black. But in doubtful cases he will prefer being too generous in his conclusions to suspecting another unjustly." How would you rate yourself on being a person who trusts?

Self-Rating: Never 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Always

What action(s) do I need to take for me to move closer to a 10? _____

Love always hopes: (G1629 elpizo: trust, hope for) Human failure is not final and true love embraces that truth. Love is hopelessly optimistic. Love refuses to take failure as final. Faith may be diminished but hope continues. Hope proclaims that God is still God. In the midst of difficult or even devastating times, it concedes that change and success is still possible. How would you rate yourself on being a person who is hopeful?

Self-Rating: Never 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Always

What action(s) do I need to take for me to move closer to a 10? _____

Love always perseveres: (G5278 hupomeno: to remain, persevere, to bear up under trials) Endurance is a key component of love. This is not enduring a minor annoyance but great frustration. Love never dies and stands against incredible odds. It is continual, persistent, and steadfast. It displays great fortitude. How would you rate yourself on being a person who perseveres?

Self-Rating: Never 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Always

What action(s) do I need to take for me to move closer to a 10? _____