

Expectation of Marriage & Love

Prayer: Prayer of a Married Person

Lord Jesus Christ, by Your presence You blessed the wedding in Cana and showed us that You are the true priest of mystical and pure marriage. We thank You for the day on which by Your heavenly blessing You joined us in the sacrament of marriage. Lord, continue to bless and enrich our marriage in love companionship, mutual support, oneness of heart and progress in faith and life. Protect our Holy wedlock from sin, evil and danger. Nurture between us the spirit of understanding, the spirit of forgiveness and the spirit of peace, that no resentment, quarrel or other problem may cause us to stumble and fall. Grant us to see our own faults and not to judge each other. Keep our bond of love always new. Gladden our lives with the joys of marriage, that with one heart we may praise and glorify You. Amen

Discussion: (1Corinthians 13:4-8)⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;^[b] ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never fails.

Paul enumerates 15 characteristics on Love to show how love acts. While in English most of these words are predicate adjectives, in Greek they are verbs. The Greek word for love is Agape. **Love is not talk; it is action.**

Agape indicates a “caring self sacrificing commitment, which shows itself in seeking the highest good of the one loved.” So many times we take for granted the ones closest to us.

We show this love to strangers but forget to show it to each other.

As you read through the love characteristics think of what each one means to you in your relationship.

- **Selfless love is patient-**
What does this mean to you?
- **Selfless love is kind-**
What does this mean to you?
- **Selfless love is not Jealous**
How can one exhibit jealousy?
- **Selfless love does not envy or boast**
What does it mean to envy or boast?
- **Selfless love is not arrogant or rude-**
In what ways can we fall into being arrogant or rude?

- **Selfless love does not insist on its own**
What do you think insist on its own; means?
- **Selfless love is not irritable or resentful**
Why?
- **Selfless love does not rejoice in wrong doing**
What does this mean to you?
- **Agape love never fails**
What does this mean to you?

Leaders Guide- Expectations of Marriage & Love

- Have enough copies of the discussion, and hand out to each participant.
- Q/A section- allow the group adequate time to share their thoughts.
- Tell each couple to think of themselves only during the reflection of the characteristics of love.
- Have a clock nearby so you are conscious of time.
- End with Prayer

Leaders Question guide:

Selfless love is Patient - What does patient mean?

If you are patient you are slow to anger, you endure wrongs without retaliating. You bear others imperfections, faults and differences. You give them time to spiritually grow and room to make mistakes without judgment.

Selfless love is kind-

Kindness is patience in action. In Greek this means “useful”. A kind person is of mind to be helpful. They seek out needs and opportunities to meet needs without seeking repayment. They are tender and forgiving when wronged. It is important to stay in-tune and to act on each other’s needs. This will help foster closeness throughout your marriage.

Selfless love is not Jealous-

How can one exhibit jealousy?

Being jealous is related to greed and selfishness. A jealous person wants what others have or wants things for himself. They will not applaud others success, they want all the attention. The book of James tells us that jealousy is often a source of quarrels and conflicts. A jealous spouse refuses to recognize their spouse’s abilities and contributions. They are jealous of the time the spouse spends with their children and friends. They want their spouse all to their self.

Selfless love does not envy or boast

What does it mean to envy or boast?

Bragging is trying to make other people envy what you have. It’s boasting about what great accomplishments you have achieved in order to make yourselves look good. In a quarrel, a spouse may say, after all I have done for you, and you treat me this way?

Love is trying to build up both of you not just one. Love is humble! It is important to remember that everything we have is an undeserved gift from God.

Selfless love is not arrogant or rude-

In what ways can we fall into being arrogant or rude?

Love has manners! Love is not rude or needlessly offends. It is polite, sensitive to feeling and always uses discernment. It is showing care through small actions for each other. If we are not being courteous then we are only thinking of ourselves and not of others.

Selfless love does not insist on its own

What do you think insist on its own means?

**After reading the leaders section- Have couples face each other and take turns answering this section.

You cannot seek your own in your home. Oneness takes work. Two lives have emerged and need to be able to operate together. Oneness cannot be achieved if each of you are operating on your own. Selfless love lays down their lives for each other as Jesus did for us.

Take a few minutes and write down 3 ways you feel you are achieving oneness.

- 1
- 2
- 3

Now write down ways you are not.

- 1
- 2
- 3

Selfless love is not irritable or resentful

Why?

Some people make everyone around them walk on egg shells. They are easily angered and go off when anything does not please them. They use their anger to intimidate and punish. They may say; yeah, I have a temper but I get it all out and it's done. Well so does and bomb but look at the devastation it leaves behind. When were angry usually we are not loving! James 1:19- "So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God."

Selfless love does not rejoice in wrong doing

What does this mean to you?

Love does not keep a tally of wrongs that we have done. It doesn't try to gain the upper hand by reminder the other person of their wrong doings. In fact, Romans 4:6 reminds us that "being forgiven comes from God's mercy, through repentance, faith and humility, not by works of the law."

Take away-

Although we mainly focused on verses 4-7, where Paul describes how love acts it is also important to realize that in verses 1-3 he shows the preeminence of love, that love is greater than all spiritual gifts because without love, gifts are empty. In verses 4-7 He shows the practice of love, how love is greater than all spiritual gifts because of its selfless characteristics. In verses 8-13 he shows the permanence of love, that love is greater than all spiritual gifts because it outlasts them. It never fails!

