

September 27, 2015

## ABC'S OF RELATIONSHIPS: LOVE

### PART 1

#### 1 CORINTHIANS 13:4

##### Love is patient. 1 Cor. 13:4

- Love is patient with **people** not circumstances. 1 Cor. 13:4; Eph. 4:32; 1 Pet. 3:1-9; Prov. 15:18; Col. 3:12; 1 Thess. 5:14; 1 Tim. 1:15-16
- Love is patient, **never** retaliates, seeks revenge, nor is angry. 1 Cor. 13:4; Eph. 4:26-29, 32; Prov. 14:29; 15:18; Rom. 12:17; Matt. 5:39; James 1:19-20

##### Love is kind. 1 Cor. 13:4

- Love is not what I **feel** but what I do. 1 Cor. 13:4; Eph. 4:32; Matt. 5:40-41; 1 Pet. 2:2-3; Rom. 12:10; Phil. 2:3-4
- Love is kind because it is a **servant** that is useful and generous. 1 Cor. 13:4; John 13:15; Luke 8:40-56; Eph. 4:32; Rom. 12:10; Phil. 2:3-4

##### Love is not jealous. 1 Cor. 13:4

- Love is not jealous because it is not in **competition** with others. 1 Cor. 13:4; Matt. 20:20-24; Luke 15:25-32; 1 Sam. 18:9-15; 1-4; Gen. 37:3-36; 45:1-15; 50:15-21
- Love is not jealous because it is **glad** for the success of others. 1 Cor. 13:4; 1 Sam. 18:1-4; Acts 13-14; 15:7-11; 4:36-37; 9:26-28; 11:21-27; 15:36-39

##### Love does not brag. 1 Cor. 13:4

- Love does not brag because it is not all **about** me. 1 Cor. 13:4; John 13:1-17; Matt. 16:21-23; 1 Cor. 2:1-5; Rom. 12:10; Phil. 2:3-4; Luke 15:25-32; 9:23
- Love does not brag but seeks to **give** recognition, honor, and applause to others. 1 Cor. 13:4; 1 Sam. 18:1-4; Rom. 12:10; Phil. 2:3-4; John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38

## THE 5 LOVE LANGUAGES

1. *Words of Affirmation*: Actions don't always speak louder than words. If this is your love language, unsolicited compliments mean the world to you. Hearing the words, "I love you," are important—hearing the reasons behind that love sends your spirits skyward. Insults can leave you shattered and are not easily forgotten.

2. *Quality Time*: In the vernacular of Quality Time, nothing says, "I love you," like full, undivided attention. Being there for this type of person is critical, but really being there—with the TV off, fork and knife down, and all chores and tasks on standby—makes your significant other feel truly special and loved. Distractions, postponed dates, or the failure to listen can be especially hurtful.

3. *Receiving Gifts*: Don't mistake this love language for materialism; the receiver of gifts thrives on the love, thoughtfulness, and effort behind the gift. If you speak this language, the perfect gift or gesture shows that you are known, you are cared for, and you are prized above whatever was sacrificed to bring the gift to you. A missed birthday, anniversary, or a hasty, thoughtless gift would be disastrous—so would the absence of everyday gestures.

4. *Acts of Service*: Can vacuuming the floors really be an expression of love? Absolutely! Anything you do to ease the burden of responsibilities weighing on an "Acts of Service" person will speak volumes. The words he or she most wants to hear: "Let me do that for you." Laziness, broken commitments, and making more work for them tell speakers of this language their feelings don't matter.

5. *Physical Touch*: This language isn't all about the bedroom. A person whose primary language is Physical Touch is, not surprisingly, very touchy. Hugs, pats on the back, holding hands, and thoughtful touches on the arm, shoulder, or face—they can all be ways to show excitement, concern, care, and love. Physical presence and accessibility are crucial, while neglect or abuse can be unforgivable and destructive.

*Dr. Gary Chapman*