

Trading Spaces or Understanding What Your Mate Thinks Series: Relationship Realities: Getting Real About Marriage

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NIV)

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸Love never fails.

UNDERSTANDING OUR DIFFERENCES

1. REQUIRES EXTREME PATIENCE.

v. 4 “Love is patient...”

Proverbs 15:18 (NLT) - A hothead starts fights; a cool-tempered person tries to stop them.

2. DEMANDS EXTRA KINDNESS.

v. 4 “...love is kind.”

Proverbs 31:26 (NLT) - When she speaks, her words are wise, and kindness is the rule when she gives instructions.

3. ELIMINATES ENVY.

v. 4 “...It does not envy,...”

Galatians 5:26 (NIV) - Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

4. DOES AWAY WITH PRIDE.

v. 4 “...it does not boast, it is not proud.”

Proverbs 13:10 (NLT) - Pride leads to arguments; those who take advice are wise.

5. CAUSES US TO BE MORE CONSIDERATE.

v. 5 “It is not rude,...”

Proverbs 25:24 (TEV) - Better to live on the roof than share the house with a nagging wife.

6. FORCES US TO SEE OUTSIDE OF OURSELVES.

v. 5 “...it is not self-seeking...”

James 3:16 (MsgB) - Whenever you're trying to look better than others or get the better of others, things fall apart and everyone ends up at the others' throats.

7. TONES DOWN THE ANGER.

v. 5 “...it is not easily angered,...”

James 1:19 (NLT) - My dear brothers and sisters, be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.

8. STOPS THE SCORE-KEEPING.

v. 5 “...it keeps no record of wrongs.”

Luke 6:37 (NIV) - Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

9. CAUSES US TO DISTAIN EVIL.

v. 6 “Love does not delight in evil...”

Ephesians 6:12 (NLT) - For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world...

10. FORCES US TO FOCUS ON TRUTH.

v. 6 “...but rejoices with the truth.”

John 8:32 (NIV) – Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

11. MAKES US WANT TO PROTECT OUR RELATIONSHIP.

v. 7 “It always protects...”

1 Peter 4:8 (NIV) - Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

12. BUILDS TRUST.

v. 7 “...always trusts...”

Proverbs 14:22 (TEV) - You will earn the trust and respect of others if you work for good; if you work for evil, you are making a mistake.

13. GIVES US NEW HOPE.

v. 7 “...always hopes...”

1 John 3:3 (NKJV) - And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

14. GIVES US NEW STRENGTH.

v. 7 “...always perseveres.”

Matthew 24:13 (MsgB) - Staying with it—that's what God requires. Stay with it to the end. You won't be sorry, and you'll be saved.

15. BRINGS ULTIMATE VICTORY.

v. 8 “Love never fails...”

2 Corinthians 2:14 (CEV) - I am grateful that God always makes it possible for Christ to lead us to victory.