

Journey CHURCH



LOVE GUIDE

THIS GUIDE INCLUDES

15 Steps to Discerning True Love
3 Types of Love

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15 Steps to Discerning True Love

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-9

#1 LOVE IS PATIENT Love is slow to lose patience. It doesn't demonstrate irritations, or reflect anger, or have a quick temper. Has fully accepted the character of the mate.

#2 LOVE IS KIND Love looks for a way of being constructive. It is actively creative. It is able to recognize needs. It discovers successful methods of improving or contributing to the other's life.

#3 LOVE ENVIES NOT Love is not possessive. It does not hold exclusive control where one is allowed little or no freedom to fulfill apart from the mate.

#4 LOVE DOES NOT BOAST Love is not anxious to impress. It doesn't seek to make an impression or create an image for personal gain.

#5 LOVE IS NOT PROUD Love does not cherish inflated ideas of its own importance. It is not self-centered. It has the ability to change and to accept change. It is flexible. It doesn't allow or expect life to revolve around itself.

#6 LOVE DOES NOT DISHONOR OTHERS Love has good manners. It has respect for others which results in a set of Christ-centered standards. It has discretion. Love knows what is proper and when.

#7 LOVE DOES NOT SEEK ITS OWN Love does not pursue selfish advantage. It does not have primary concern for personal sexual appetites or social status but concern for the needs of the mate and the families involved.

#8 LOVE IS NOT EASILY ANGERED Love is not touchy. Responding in anger is a choice. Choose not to give in to anger. Reflect before reacting in anger.

#9 LOVE KEEPS NO RECORD OF WRONGS Love does not keep account of evil. It's not hypersensitive or easily hurt. It does not take things too personally. Love is not emotionally involved with personal opinions so that to reject ideas or reject the one giving them.

#10 LOVE DOES NOT REJOICE IN EVIL Love doesn't gloat over the wickedness of other people. It doesn't compare self with others for self-justification. It doesn't use other's evil to excuse personal weakness. It doesn't say, "Everyone is doing it."

#11 LOVE REJOICES IN THE TRUTH Truth prevails. Love is active in fellowship with dedicated Christians. It's occupied with spiritual objectives.

#12 LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS Love knows no limit to its forbearance. It has the ability to live with inconsistencies of others. It has empathy for the problems of others.

#13 LOVE BELIEVES ALL THINGS Love knows no end to its truth. It believes in the person and the person's worth without question. It has no reason to doubt the person's integrity.

#14 LOVE HOPES ALL THINGS Love knows no fading of its hope. It is not fickle. It has perfect peace and confidence that God is primarily responsible for introducing the right partner at the right time.

#15 LOVE ENDURES ALL THINGS Love has unlimited endurance. It is able to outlast anything. It is able to endure all obstacles and even love in the face of unreturned love.

3 Kinds of Love

EROS LOVE

This is need love. It is based upon physical attraction and fulfillment. This love is necessary for marriage to succeed; however, marriage cannot be sustained by *eros* alone.

Proverbs 5:15-19 *NKJV*

Drink water from your own cistern, and running water from your own well. Should your fountains be dispersed abroad, Streams of water in the streets? Let them be only your own, And not for strangers with you. Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of your youth. As a loving deer and a graceful doe, let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love.

PHILEO LOVE

This is friendship love. The Bible uses the word "companionship" several times in describing what a marriage relationship is. *Phileo* love means reciprocal sharing of time, activities, the home, hobbies, games, and other objects of common fellowship.

Romans 12:9-13 *NLT*

Don't just pretend that you love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Stand on the side of the good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy in your work, but serve the Lord enthusiastically. Be glad for all God is planning for you. Be patient in trouble, and always be prayerful. When God's children are in need, be the one to help them out. And get into the habit of inviting guests home for dinner or, if they need lodging, for the night.

AGAPE LOVE

This is a giving love. This can be unilateral in that one loves even when the other doesn't respond as expected. It is self-giving in meeting real needs of the other with the purpose of helping the person to become a better, more mature individual. *Agape* love takes the initiative and energizes the other two kinds of love. *Agape's* characteristics are in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.

1 Corinthians 13:4-5 *NLT*

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged.