Christ-Centered Love

Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his one and only Son into the world so that we might live through him. Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, if God loved us in this way, we also must love one another.

1 John 4:7-11

Now these three remain: faith, hope, and love—but the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13

Score__________

• Spouses often misjudge their level of love in marriage. They tend to ____________________________ their own love and ____________________________ their spouse’s love.

ASSESSING CHRIST-CENTERED LOVE – (1 Corinthians 13)

1. Patient – love is patient (v.4)
   a. Willing to wait without ______________ or ______________

2. Kind – love is kind (v.4)
   a. Displaying warmth and ____________________________

3. Content – love does not envy (v.4)
   a. Personal ____________________________ despite the advancement of others

4. Humble – is not boastful (v.4)
   a. Willingness to ____________________________ to give others credit

5. Meek – is not arrogant (v.4)
   a. Doesn’t press for the ____________________________

6. Polite – is not rude (v.5)
   a. Responding in ____________________________ in the presence of negative emotion

7. Sacrificial – is not self-seeking (v.5)
   a. Looking to the ____________________________ of the other person even when it costs

8. Pleasant – is not irritable (v.5)
   a. Easy to be around and hard to offend

9. Forgiving – does not keep a record of wrongs (v.5)
   a. Intentionally ____________________________ the wrongs of the past

10. Righteous – finds no joy in unrighteousness (v.6)
    a. Pursues the right and celebrates ____________________________

11. Truthful – rejoices in the truth (v.6)
    a. Honesty even when it’s hard or ____________________________

12. Bearable – it bears all things (v.7)
    a. Shoulders the ____________________________ load for another

13. Trusting – believes all things (v.7)
    a. Gives the benefit of the ____________________________

14. Hopeful – hopes all things (v.7)
    a. Confidence even when the reality is ____________________________

15. Enduring – endures all things (v.7)
    a. Pressing on through the ____________________________ times

16. Permanent – love never fails (v.8)
    a. Stands the test of time regardless of ____________________________

CHOOSING CHRIST-CENTERED LOVE?

1. Recognize the ____________________________ of authentic love
   o because love is from God

2. Choose to combat unhealthy ______________
   o be transformed by renewing your mind

3. Be ____________________________ when things need work

©Tate Cockrell, Ph.D., 2018
4. Believe the _________ about your spouse
   - Blessed are the peacemakers
5. Seek to grow in _________ one another
   - A fool takes no pleasure in understanding
6. Talk regularly about Christ and _________ together in spiritual intimacy
   - stir up one another to love and good works

**WHEN CHRIST-CENTERED LOVE COMES TO YOUR MARRIAGE**

1. Gives Evidence of Authentic Faith
   - and everyone who loves has been born of God and _________ God Identity
2. Fuels Good Character in Christian Growth
   - love, which binds them all together in _________ unity
3. Words Take Action
   - let us not love with words or speech but with _________ and in truth
4. Motivates Spouses to Forgive
   - because love covers over a _________ of sins
5. Kingdom Impact
   - Others see Christ in you as a _________ of the church