

Love Requires Evidence

Today's podcast is about how love requires evidence.

There is a common saying: actions speak louder than words. It's easy for anyone to say the three little words, "I love you," but it is their actions that truly prove or disprove their declaration of love. Love requires evidence, & it is through one's actions that love is revealed & felt.

The Bible beautifully defines love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. This passage in the Amplified Bible says, "*Love endures with patience and serenity, love is kind and thoughtful, and is not jealous or envious; love does not brag and is not proud or arrogant. ⁵It is not rude; it is not self-seeking, it is not provoked [nor overly sensitive and easily angered]; it does not take into account a wrong endured. ⁶It does not rejoice at injustice, but rejoices with the truth [when right and truth prevail]. ⁷Love bears all things [regardless of what comes], believes all things [looking for the best in each one], hopes all things [remaining steadfast during difficult times], endures all things [without weakening]. ⁸Love never fails [it never fades nor ends]. But as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for the gift of special knowledge, it will pass away.*"

But how often do we truly witness these qualities in someone who claims to love us? Are their actions in line with the Biblical definition of love?

If someone claims to love you but fails to display the qualities mentioned in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, their love is questionable. Their actions are a testament to their true feelings. Ask yourself, does this person display the qualities of Biblical love?

Love endures with patience & serenity. It requires a willingness to understand, forgive, & support the other person. Does this person display those behaviors or do they constantly exhibit impatience, irritability, or a lack of understanding?

Love is kind & thoughtful. It goes beyond mere words & encompasses acts of kindness, consideration, & thoughtfulness. Does this person exhibit those behaviors or fail to show kindness in their actions?

Love is not jealous or envious. It celebrates the successes & happiness of the other person without feeling threatened or envious. Does that describe this person accurately?

Love does not brag & is not proud or arrogant. It embraces humility & acknowledges the importance of equality & respect in a relationship. If anyone constantly seeks to assert their superiority or demean the other person, their actions contradict the fundamental nature of love.

Love is not rude or self seeking. Love manifests through politeness, courtesy, & selflessness. Anyone who consistently disregards your feelings, needs, or boundaries, reveals a lack of genuine love & concern.

Love does not take into account a wrong endured. It forgives & lets go of past mistakes or hurts. Holding onto grudges or constantly bringing up past offenses indicates an inability to truly love & forgive. (Please know I am not referring here to anger at being abused. That should not be in the “forgive & forget” category!)

Love does not rejoice at injustice but rejoices with the truth. It stands for justice, fairness, & honesty. Not doing so is evidence of a lack of Godly love.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, & endures all things. It remains steadfast & unwavering during difficult times. If someone abandons you in times of hardship or fails to support you, their love is not as true as they claim.

Love never fails. It never fades or ends. When someone says they love you but their actions consistently fall short of the qualities of love, it is an indication that their love may not be as authentic as they proclaim.

Words are important, but actions reveal the sincerity & depth of love. When someone's actions align with the qualities of love described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, their love is genuine. However, if their actions consistently contradict these qualities, their love is questionable. Remember, love requires evidence, & it is through actions that true love is revealed & experienced.

Thank you for listening to my podcast!