

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." I Corinthians 13:4-7

Love isn't a feeling, it's an action-oriented commitment. The world has redefined love to be just a fickle feeling that comes and goes. Instead, it's a choice to give your best to someone even when they are at their worst. It means serving someone even when they are in no position to repay. It means giving more grace than we feel like giving. That's what Christ did for us and what He calls us to do for each other.

If only we could learn to truly apply the verses above in our marriages. So often, we get so focused on our own needs that we ignore, or don't even recognize, our spouse's needs. You can start by recognizing that YOU are the only part of the marriage that you truly have the power to change.

Choose to be your spouse's biggest encourager, not their biggest critic. Choose to be the person who wipes away their tears, not the one who causes them. Choose to become a cheerleader for their strengths instead of pointing out their weaknesses.

Always treat your spouse with thoughtfulness, respect, kindness and encouragement. In moments of disagreement, don't look for ways to stir up conflict or belittle their opinions. Be quick to apologize when you've hurt their feelings. Don't let selfishness or pride distract you from putting their needs ahead of your own.

How can you communicate your love and commitment to your spouse every day?

May 20, 2018  
Series: **Family Matters**  
Marriages Matter  
Pastor Rick Rufenacht



## **Good Marriages Take Work**

Ec 9:9

## **Good Marriages Prosper in Sacrifice**

Eph 5:31     *James 4:1*

## **Good Marriages Store Up Reserves**

1 Cor 13:4-7

## **Good Marriages Blossom In Commitment**

Matt 19:5-6

## **Good Marriages Reflect God's Love**

John 3:16