

WHO SHOULD I LOVE?

Dating, Relationships & Boundaries

— 1 Corinthians 13:4-8; Proverbs 4:23 —



1 LOVE WITH WISDOM



God calls us to love our neighbors, but loving everyone does not mean dating everyone or giving everyone equal access to our lives. Paul describes Christlike love for the whole church; these truths also guide dating, friendships, and marriage. Love is patient, kind, and committed to truth. Proverbs teaches us to guard our hearts because our inner lives shape our choices. Healthy relationships honor God, respect others, and make room for wise boundaries.

3 READ 1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8



“Charity suffereth long, and is kind;”
— 1 Corinthians 13:4 (KJV)

- “Charity” here means love.
- Love is patient and kind, not proud or selfish.
- Love rejoices in truth, never in wrongdoing.
- These words guide all Christian relationships.
- Enduring love does not require enduring abuse.

5 KEY TRUTH



- ☒ Love others as people made in God’s image.
- ☒ Choose character over charm.
- ☒ Boundaries can protect love and dignity.
- ☒ Your worth does not depend on dating.

2 REFLECTION & DISCUSSION



- How is biblical love different from attraction or attention?

- What qualities help a relationship grow in faith and respect?

- Why can saying “no” sometimes be a loving choice?

4 FILL IN THE TRUTH



- Charity suffereth long, and is _____.
- Charity envieth _____.
- Love rejoiceth in the _____.

6 PERSONAL REFLECTION



Do my closest relationships encourage faith, honesty, respect, and peace?
What needs to change?

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7 READ PROVERBS 4:23



*"Keep thy heart with all diligence;
for out of it are the issues of life."
— Proverbs 4:23 (KJV)*

- The heart includes our thoughts, desires, and choices.
- Guarding your heart means welcoming God's wisdom.
- Pay attention to patterns, not just promises.
- Set clear emotional, physical, and digital boundaries.
- Seek wise counsel before deepening a relationship.

8 FILL IN THE TRUTH



1. Keep thy _____ with all diligence.
2. For out of it are the issues of _____.
3. Charity never _____. (1 Corinthians 13:8)
4. Love rejoices in the _____.
(1 Corinthians 13:6)
5. One boundary I need to practice is:
_____.

11 7-DAY CHALLENGE



- Day 1:** Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.
Day 2: Practice patience in one conversation.
Day 3: Show kindness without expecting a reward.
Day 4: Read and pray through Proverbs 4:23.
Day 5: Communicate one healthy boundary.
Day 6: Seek wise counsel about a relationship.
Day 7: Review your choices and pray for growth.

9 FROM LOVE TO WISE CHOICES



1. Seek relationships that encourage faith in Christ.



2. Look for patience, kindness, honesty, and respect.



3. Honor God with your body; reserve sex for marriage.



4. Say "no" to pressure, manipulation, and abuse.



5. Forgive without assuming trust is instantly restored.

10 APPLICATION



1. One way I can show Christlike love:



2. One boundary I need to communicate:



3. A wise, trusted person I can seek for counsel:



4. The scripture I want to remember:

12 CLOSING PRAYER



Lord, teach me to love with patience, kindness, and truth. Guard my heart and guide my choices. Help me honor You in dating, friendships, and family life. Give me courage to set wise boundaries and humility to respect the boundaries of others. Let my relationships reflect the love of Jesus. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Study more this week:

John 13:34-35; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5; Proverbs 13:20.