

# Love, Dates, Heartbreaks, and Kids

## Lesson 4

Genesis 2:18-25; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13;  
Galatians 5:13-26; Ephesians 5:21-33

April 10, 2022

## Healthy Boundaries in Marriage

### INTRODUCTION

If you visited Yellowstone National Park, you'd encounter signs that say something like "DANGER!" as you get close to a geyser. When we talk about "healthy boundaries," we usually mean an intentional, relational separation between two people, but sometimes a "healthy boundary" means a separation that keeps us away from danger.

Christ followers commonly ask themselves, "How far can I go before I've gone too far?" For example: "How far can I go before I'm guilty of looking at pornography?" or "How far can I go before I'm guilty of deception?" Biblical love takes the opposite view and asks not, "How far can I go?" Rather, it asks, "How far away can I get?" For a healthy marriage that honors Jesus, both spouses must honor the Biblical view of the boundaries that divide love from sin.

***Memory verse: "However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband."—Ephesians 5:33***

Pray, and read the passages listed above. What questions or observations do you have about them?

**OBSERVATION: What do the passages say?**

1. Which adjectives and actions listed in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 are similar to the fruits of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:16-26?
2. Which adjectives and actions listed in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 are associated with works of the flesh in Galatians 5:16-26?
3. What is the main thing required of a husband and the main thing required of a wife in marriage? (Ephesians 5:25-26, 28, 33)
4. Why is it good for a man to leave his father and mother? (Genesis 2:23-24)
5. What are some advantages to having a companion? (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

## **INTERPRETATION: What do the passages mean?**

1. Why did God invent marriage? What does marriage bring to God's kingdom? (Genesis 2:18-25; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Ephesians 5:21-33)
  
2. Why did Paul go into so much detail to describe love? Why is it important for us to know what love is and what it is not? (1 Corinthians 13:1-13)
  
3. The actions and emotions associated with active love are very similar to the fruits of the Spirit. What does this tell us about the role of the Holy Spirit in creating a healthy marriage? (1 Corinthians 13:4-8; Galatians 5:16-26)

4. What 3-4 characteristics of love from 1 Corinthians are most important to bringing emotional and spiritual intimacy to a marriage? (Genesis 2:18, 23-24; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. How do the selfish actions and emotions listed in 1 Corinthians prevent the companionship described in Ecclesiastes 4? (1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

**APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?**

1. Pray about a time when you saw envy, anger, pride, dishonor and/or selfishness in a marriage (or any relationship). How did these emotions chip away at its foundation? (1 Corinthians 13:1-7)

